



P.O. Box 278
Riverdale, MD 20738

Committee: Budget and Taxation

Testimony on: SB 228 - "Maryland Corps Program - Revisions"

Position: Favorable with Amendment

Hearing Date: February 9, 2022

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club encourages support for SB 228 with amendment. The bill makes a variety of useful revisions to the Maryland Corps Program, including creating a Maryland Civilian Climate Corps and directing that funding for the Program be provided in the Governor's budget through 2027 and beyond. These changes are designed to help promote workforce development and opportunities throughout Maryland using a lens of environmental, social, and racial justice.

As the Committee considers the bill, we encourage it to clarify that the Climate Corps may support greenhouse gas reduction and climate change mitigation activities, including clean energy and energy savings actions that will reduce greenhouse gases as well as resiliency investments that will benefit Maryland's communities. This clarification would provide useful job training opportunities with important benefits to participants and their communities and make clear that the qualifying activities are broader than support of parks staffing, which is also a meritorious activity. With such adjustments the bill would align well with the workforce development and climate equity objectives of the Climate Solutions Now Act (SB 528) which is also currently under consideration by the Senate.

In summary, this bill provides useful revisions, expansions, and funding to the Maryland Corps Program. We urge this Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 228 with an appropriate clarification that helps ensure that the Maryland Civilian Climate Corps can achieve its full potential.

Randy Lyon
Legislative Chair
Randy.Lyon@MDSierra.org

Josh Tulkin
Chapter Director
Josh.Tulkin@MDSierra.org

Founded in 1892, the Sierra Club is America's oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization. The Maryland Chapter has over 70,000 members and supporters, and the Sierra Club nationwide has over 800,000 members and nearly four million supporters.