



City of Salisbury

Jacob R. Day, Mayor

10 March 2022

Committees: Economic Matters & Environment and Transportation

Testimony on: HB 171

Position: Favorable

Re: **Favorable support for HB 171 – *Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act***

Dear Members of the Economic Matters & Environment and Transportation Committees,

As you consider the merits of **HB 171**, I ask that you vote to give this legislation a **Favorable** Committee report.

The City of Salisbury supports HB 171, which will significantly reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions. If enacted, this bill will help to safeguard our environment while acting in the best interests of Maryland residents and local governments by generating investments in clean energy infrastructure.

HB 171 will:

- Reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 100% of 2006 levels by 2040
- Introduce polluter pays fossil fuel fees with a no-pass through provision
- Generate revenue for a Climate Crisis Infrastructure Fund

As the Capital of the Eastern Shore, residents of our city have first-hand experience in contending with the detrimental effects of chronic climate change. Whether faced with soil erosion in our tidal areas or the heavy flooding that has become synonymous with major storms, although we remain versatile, we must take meaningful action as we respond to environmental hazards, including that of the ever-increasing levels of greenhouse gas emissions that threaten the health of our Eastern Shore. Here in Salisbury, we continue to promote sustainable practices through the transformative work of our Green Team, whose members work to develop projects and policies that foster an atmosphere of social and environmental responsibility across Salisbury and the Lower Eastern Shore.

In addition to effecting change through impactful climate action, this legislation will also establish a Climate Crisis Infrastructure Fund which will enable municipalities to further reduce emissions while bolstering climate resilience efforts. HB 171 will help us to turn the tides of climate change while protecting the health of Maryland's natural resources and environment.

I ask for your **support** of this critical climate action legislation and request that you pass HB 171 out of Committee with a **FAVORABLE** report.

Respectfully,

Jacob R. Day
Mayor