



Secular Maryland

secularmaryland@tutanota.com

March 04, 2022

SUPPORT - HB 708

Comprehensive Climate Solutions

Dear Chair Wilson, Vice-Chair Crosby, and Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

This bill establishes a goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2045. It focuses on reducing waste landfill methane emissions. It calls for using the best available scientific information. It includes measures of social cost in evaluating economic benefits of policy alternatives. It addresses employment disruption and retraining together with the new employment opportunities and training. It stops providing financial incentives for equipment or appliances that use fossil fuels. It establishes a Climate Transition and Clean Energy Hub that provides technical assistance for achieving greenhouse gas emission reductions.

NOAA developed the Annual Greenhouse Gas Index ("AGGI" for short). Updated yearly, the AGGI compares the combined warming influence of the long-lived greenhouse gases—atmospheric gases that absorb and radiate heat—to their influence in 1990. They chose 1990 because that is the year that countries who signed the U.N. Kyoto Protocol agreed to use as a benchmark for their efforts to reduce emissions. By the end of 2020, the warming influence of human-produced greenhouse gases had risen 47 percent above the 1990 baseline. The AGGI has continued to rise steadily since at least 1980. According to the EPA, 35% of CO₂ is created by the transportation sector, 31% by the electricity, 16% by industry and 11% by residential and commercial. For methane it is 30% natural gas and petroleum, 27% enteric fermentation, 17% landfills. For nitrous oxide it is 75% agricultural soil management. For fluorinated gases it is 92% substitution of ozone depleting substances.

The urgency of the climate crisis we are facing should not be understated. It is an existential threat that needs to be addressed now. Although this bill is not the most

comprehensive (despite the word “comprehensive” in the name), if passed it would help put us on track to reversing decades of emitting green house gases that have contributed significantly to the decline of our common environment. We encourage this committee and our General Assembly to step up to our generation’s challenge of creating a cleaner Maryland that is healthier for everyone.

Respectfully,
Mathew Goldstein
3838 Early Glow Ln
Bowie, MD