



marylandnonprofits.org

1500 Union Avenue | Suite 2500 | Baltimore, MD 21211
410.727.6367 | 800.273.6367 | Fax 410.235.2190

February 15, 2022

Testimony on Senate Bill 528
Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Position: Favorable

Maryland Nonprofits is a statewide association of more than 1300 nonprofit organizations and institutions. We urge you to support Senate Bill 528, the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, to achieve critical climate, equity and clean energy goals.

Those goals must include, without weakening:

- 1) A mandate to cut greenhouse gas emissions 60% by 2030 (below 2006 levels).
- 2) A requirement that all newly constructed buildings in Maryland have electric-only energy systems exempting only kitchen appliances.
- 3) Serious efforts to begin electrifying our transportation system starting with school buses and state-owned vehicles.
- 4) Robust climate investments in overburdened and low- and moderate- income communities, including a Climate Justice Corps that will support clean energy projects and create jobs for young adults.
- 5) A Net Zero School Fund to assist local school systems in building net-zero schools.

The issue of justice, again, must be central. Following a proposed national standard, all efforts in Maryland to reduce harmful emissions must guarantee that at least 40% of climate investments and benefits accrue to disadvantaged communities.

Communities of color in our state have historically suffered disproportionately from dirty energy and climate impacts. Our climate solutions must reach these communities first.

The Climate Solutions Now Act, if passed without weakening amendments, will begin reversing these trends while taking concrete steps toward a carbon-free Maryland for all. Please pass it immediately.

We urge you to give Senate Bill 528 a favorable report.



Maryland Nonprofits' mission is to strengthen organizations and networks for greater quality of life and equity.