



TESTIMONY FOR SB0552

Environment - Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement (Better Together to Save Our Weather Act of 2022)

Bill Sponsor: Senator Kramer

Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Monica O'Connor, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am offering this testimony in strong support of SB0552 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing. The Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing is an association of more than 50 grassroots environmental groups across the state. We believe in responsible stewardship of our environment that supports and protects all Marylanders.

We applaud Senator Kramer for bringing such important, common-sense legislation. We are all more than aware that we are living in a climate emergency. Some counties in Maryland have already started, or completed, plans to try to mitigate the effects of the climate crisis, and make their communities less reliant on fossil fuels and mitigate the effects of climate change as much as possible.

This is something that can't be done in little isolated islands. The whole state should participate if everyone is to benefit. This is not to say that the state should be off the hook. The state needs to lead in this process, but each county should create a Climate Action Plan that is tailored to the threats that the county is facing.

Environmental justice should be front and center in each plan, as should transportation and land use. However, some counties will face greater threats from flooding, whereas the greatest threat in other counties centers around a lack of public transportation or an overabundance of fossil fuel infrastructure. Whatever the major threat, a plan of action should be in place.

Waiting for someone else to figure it out, or worse yet, waiting for a disaster that takes lives, is not an option. We cannot imagine the cost of failure to enact this legislation.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.

