



Testimony on behalf of the Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce

*In Opposition to
Senate Bill 528---Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022*

*February 15, 2022
Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee*

The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce (GBCC) was founded in 1926. Since then, the organization has grown to more than 550 businesses located throughout the Greater Bethesda area and beyond. On behalf of these members, we appreciate the opportunity to provide written comments on Senate Bill 528—Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022.

The Greater Bethesda Chamber of Commerce supports reasonable policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance sustainability. We worry, however, that what is required in Senate Bill 528 is *unreasonable* based on the timelines for meeting the bill's goals coupled with the costs associated with doing so. The bill calls for developing a detailed plan of action focused on how the state will achieve a dramatic reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. We think a plan makes sense, especially on a matter this complex. However, we do not believe the state should, at the same as mandating a study, make such drastic policy changes as the ones contemplated in Senate Bill 528, without the benefit of fully thinking through the implications of such changes. While we are certainly not energy policy experts, we are concerned about the impact of this bill on things like access to affordable housing, our ability to compete with neighboring jurisdictions and our state's energy infrastructure .

Senate Bill 528 may also compromise Maryland's economic competitive. This legislation goes well beyond:

- United Nations recommendations that countries reach net-zero by 2050;
- Biden Administration recommendations that states reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030;
- The Maryland Commission on Climate Change's recommendations that Maryland reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030; and
- Every city and county that has considered similar decarbonization policies.

With this proposal exceeding the targets of jurisdictions at every level of government, it is reasonable to question the impacts of this legislation on Maryland's economy.

For these reasons, we would respectfully request an unfavorable vote on Senate Bill 528. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments.