



Peter Franchot
Comptroller

TESTIMONY OF COMPTROLLER PETER FRANCHOT

Support - Senate Bill 528 - Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 15, 2022

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and members of the Committee, it is my pleasure to provide testimony in **support** of **Senate Bill 528 - Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022**. I would like to thank Senator Pinsky for sponsoring this important legislation, and the Committee for providing the opportunity for my testimony to be heard.

Climate change is one of the most pressing issues facing the world today, and our communities stand to bear the brunt from its devastating effects given our state's miles of shorelines, low-lying areas, and treasured natural resources all vulnerable to sea level rise and intense weather patterns.

Combatting climate change should be a top priority in Maryland, and Senate Bill 528 is a step in the right direction by introducing bold changes to the State's current approach. The bill requires the State to develop plans for a further 20 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 2006 levels by 2030 and achieve net-zero by 2045. I believe Maryland should become a regional leader by investing in renewable energy to become a net exporter of energy to the interstate grid, and Senate Bill 528 will ensure meaningful progress.

The bill also includes several provisions designed to ensure State government leads through example by mandating certain building performance standards, low-carbon energy procurement, and a state fleet transition to electric vehicles.

For the reasons stated above, and on behalf of the generations that will follow us who will inherit the Earth we leave behind, I respectfully request a **favorable report** for Senate Bill 528. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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