



February 14, 2022

**Written Testimony for [SB528](#) - Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022**

**Position: Favorable**

**Submitted by: Denisse Guitarra, Maryland Conservation Advocate, Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS)**

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Dear Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

For 125 years, Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS) has inspired people to enjoy, learn about and protect nature. We thank the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee for the opportunity to provide testimony for SB528, Climate Solutions Now Act (CSNA) of 2022.

As we navigate today's public health, social, and economic crises, it is critical to support the passage of SB414 as it is a sustainable well-rounded legislative solution. This legislation will ensure that Maryland meets its greenhouse gas reduction goals by cutting back emissions to 60% by 2030 and ensures that we are on a path to becoming carbon neutral by 2045. It includes policies to reduce carbon emissions from two of the largest sectors of carbon emissions: buildings and transportation. Since buildings emit 40% of Maryland's emissions, we support CSNA's provisions reduce emissions from buildings by support the electrification of them. In terms of emissions from the transportation sector, we support CSNA's provisions of setting a goal for the state to transition into an all-electric car fleet by 2027.

ANS supports CSNA of 2022 because it has provisions that centers and prioritizes climate change opportunities for communities of color. Through the creation of a Climate Catalytic Capital Fund and a Climate Justice Corps, the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 aims to support projects to reduce GHG emissions in overburdened communities and invest in a "green-collar" workforce. Additionally, we strongly support the provisions that direct the Maryland Department of the Environment to conduct research and data gathering on cumulative impacts and overburdened communities, in consultation with the Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities.

ANS supports SB528 as this legislation because we have no time to delay on meaningful climate action. People and the environment are already experiencing the effects of climate change from heat waves, flooding, and storm surges. On behalf of ANS and our 28,000 members and supporters, we recommend that the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee supports the passage of SB528.

Sincerely,

Denisse Guitarra  
MD Conservation Advocate  
Audubon Naturalist Society

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