



February 14, 2022

SB0528 Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 - Favorable

Kirsten Hoffman for the Green Towson Alliance

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and Honorable Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

The Green Towson Alliance (GTA) writes in support of SB0528 Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022. We are a coalition of environmentalists who advocate for a greener, healthier, more beautiful community in Baltimore County. While our work focuses mainly on the Towson area, we are very concerned with the impacts of climate change that affect all Marylanders.

Towson is currently shown as a heat island on the NOAA Urban Heat Island study. As our community continues to grow and we see new construction and more cars on our roads, the heat island effect will only worsen. GTA advocates for the planting of urban street trees and the construction of energy-efficient buildings to help mitigate climate change at our local level. We request that the state now does its part by passing comprehensive climate legislation to reduce carbon emissions, achieve net-zero emissions by 2045 and to electrify the building and transportation sectors across our state. Additionally, we need to make sure climate justice is at the forefront of climate policy. We have seen the impacts of climate injustice at work in East Towson and we have been involved with advocating for responsible - not harmful - development there.

We have no time to waste. Maryland is one of the most vulnerable states in the nation to the effects of global warming, with flooding and record-breaking heat already regular occurrences. We urgently need bold leadership now to put our state on a path to a sustainable future.

Please give your support to the passage SB0528.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kirsten Hoffman". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light gray rectangular background.

Kirsten Hoffman
for the Green Towson Alliance