



GLEN ECHO HEIGHTS MOBILIZATION

Committee: Education, Health & Environmental Affairs
Testimony on: SB528 - “Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022”
Organization: Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
Submitted By: Lisa Hemmer, Member
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 15, 2022

Glen Echo Heights Mobilization – a community organization in Montgomery County Maryland with 50 members or more -- submits testimony in support of SB528, a bill that would establish targets for greenhouse gas reductions and net zero emissions in Maryland by 2045.

The ambitious Climate Solutions bill has provisions too numerous to recount here but, *inter alia*, includes terms that:

- Require adoption of landfill methane emissions standards equivalent to California’s standards by 2024
- Compel state agencies to consider greenhouse gas reduction and climate impacts in decision-making
- Develop a Climate Justice Corps that would provide jobs for young people by mobilizing, educating and training them to deploy clean energy technology that, in turn, would mitigate and prevent environmental and health impacts of climate change on disproportionately affected communities
- Provide opportunities for funding of mandatory electric school bus purchasing
- Establish a new definition for “high performance buildings,” establish a NZE School Grant program, and establish GHG standards for new and existing buildings
- Ensure equitable involvement of all communities in its implementation.

We support this legislation for the following reasons:

- In August 2021, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change declared a “code red for humanity” due to rapidly worsening climate change. Its report declared that the planet has delayed curbing their fossil-fuel emissions for so long that the sort of impacts that the planet is experiencing from extreme storms, fires and floods, and heatwaves will continue. Nonetheless, there is a short window for preventing the most harrowing future.
- **The bill would acknowledge science and the Intergovernmental Panel’s Report by requiring recognition of the impacts of climate change in government decision-making and setting a goal for net-zero emissions, while at the same time focusing on equity and jobs.**

Conclusion. This bill ensures Maryland’s commitments toward environmental sustainability. We urge a favorable report by this Committee.