

Testimony in Support of SB528 - Climate Solutions Now:

Good afternoon Senator Pinsky and members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

My name is Nina Jeffries, I'm a native Marylander and student climate activist. We need Climate Solutions Now.

Climate change is terrifying. I just turned 22 in December, and I can already see the effects of climate change in my lifetime. Maryland is the 15th most at-risk state for heat impacts from climate change, by 2050 we will average almost 6 times more heat index days than in 2000.^{1 2} I can attest to this heat danger. Since starting college I've worked seasonally in agricultural jobs - first on-campus in our arboretum and most recently managing an urban farm in Temple Hills. Each summer I experience heat-related illness, no matter how much water I'm drinking, how early I start work, or how I pace myself. It is simply too hot to work safely outdoors. On multiple occasions this summer while I was working alone I felt so woozy I couldn't make it back to my car. I had to crawl into the shade and wait for the dizziness and weakness to pass.

And I'm young and healthy. Heat impacts will be the biggest cause of deaths associated with climate change. For children, older folks, or those with preexisting health conditions - the heat increase will be deadly.

We need Climate Solutions Now to mitigate climate change to support human and environmental health, and environmental and economic justice:

- We need to reduce GHG: CSN would reduce greenhouse gas emissions 60% by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2045
- We need to accurately account for methane, a GHG much more potent than CO2: CSN will update reporting and accounting for methane
- We need to provide young people with high-quality and high-impact jobs: Climate Justice Corps for young adults to enter green jobs and help Maryland reach its GHG reduction goals
- We need to support environmental and economic justice: the Climate Catalytic Capital Fund to support projects to reduce GHG emissions in overburdened and underserved communities

Climate change is hijacking the lives of youth. We must pass Climate Solutions Now.

Thank you.

¹ <https://climatecheck.com/maryland>

² <https://statesatrisk.org/maryland/all#:~:text=The%20New%20Normal%3A%20Earth%20is%20Getting%20Hotter&text=Nearly%20110%2C000%20people%20living%20in%2040%20danger%20days%20a%20year.>