

**SB0552\_Climate\_Crisis\_Plan\_MLC\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



## TESTIMONY FOR SB0552

### Environment - Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement (Better Together to Save Our Weather Act of 2022)

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Kramer

**Committee:** Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am offering this testimony in strong support of SB0552 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state with well over 30,000 members.

Our members are more than aware that we are living in a climate emergency. Some counties in Maryland have already started, or completed, plans to try to mitigate the effects of the climate crisis, and make their communities less reliant on fossil fuels and mitigate the effects of climate change as much as possible.

This is something that can't be done in little isolated islands. The whole state should participate if everyone is to benefit. This is not to say that the state should be off the hook. The state needs to lead in this process, but each county should create a Climate Action Plan that is tailored to the threats that the county is facing.

Environmental justice should be front and center in each plan, as should transportation and land use. However, some counties will face greater threats from flooding, whereas the greatest threat in other counties centers around a lack of public transportation or an overabundance of fossil fuel infrastructure. Whatever the major threat, a plan of action should be in place.

Waiting for someone else to figure it out, or worse yet, waiting for a disaster that takes lives, is not an option. We cannot imagine the cost of failure to enact this legislation.

The Maryland Legislative supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.

**SB552-Climate Crisis Plans-EHEA-CJW-FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Diana Younts

Position: FAV



**Committee: Education Health & Environmental Affairs**  
**Testimony on: SB552-Environment-Climate Crisis Plan-Requirements**  
**Organization: MLC Climate Justice Wing**  
**Submitting: Diana Younts, Co-Chair**  
**Position: Favorable**  
**Hearing Date: February 24, 2022**

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of SB552. The MLC Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of over 50 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on SB552.

As we think we all acknowledge, we are in a climate crisis and are still on the trajectory of catastrophic global warming of 2.7 celsius by century's end. And even if we were to limit global warming by 1.5 celsius -- the goal set in the Paris Climate Accord -- it is only the best *bad* decision we have--it still promises sea level rise, more powerful storms, devastating wildfires, and sharp species decline. If we don't sufficiently reduce emissions this decade, we will set off a domino effect of escalating disasters.

Thus, this bill requires each Maryland County to create a climate crisis plan to address our crisis, to report that plan to the Maryland Department of the Environment who must comment on the viability of the plan, and for the counties to update their plans every three years. The bill specifically requires the plans to

- Increase renewable energy use;
- Expand energy efficiency programs and to reduce the energy use for residential, commercial and public buildings;
- Reducing or eliminating the use of fossil fuels in the design of new buildings;
- Retrofitting existing buildings to be all-electric;
- Transitioning all vehicles, including buses and school buses to be electric;
- Designing and implementing safe infrastructure to promote alternative modes of transportation such as biking and walking;
- Increasing electric vehicle charging infrastructure;
- Benchmarking all buildings;
- Establishing greenhouse gas reduction targets;

- Sequestering carbon dioxide through habitat preservation, increasing urban forests;
- Identifying the communities and infrastructure within the county most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, including mitigating the heat island effect, access to emergency cooling, improving air quality, addressing climate-related health care needs; and establishing energy efficiency programs, including financial support for heating and cooling systems;
- Adaption strategies for mitigating the risk; and
- Other measures

If it seems daunting to create and implement such plans, imagine how much worse our futures will be with no plans?

For these reasons, we recommend a FAVORABLE report in committee.

**SB522\_Hope Clark\_CXC MD RMC\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Hope Clark

Position: FAV



Date 2/23/22 Hearing date 2/24/2022  
BILL: SB522 - Environment – Climate Crisis Plan – Requirement  
POSITION: SUPPORT  
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, Environment Affairs Committee  
SPONSOR: Senator Ben Kramer

Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Distinguished Members of the Committee,

Last fall, Climate XChange Maryland worked with sponsors to design the Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act (SB135). We performed an informal needs assessment, studied what kinds of Climate Action, Sustainability, and Hazard Plans each jurisdiction in Maryland has, and was able to speak with 14 Leaders: 2 Sustainability Directors, 2 Environmental Health Directors, 1 Environmental Policy Director, 1 Acting Environmental Health Director, 1 Director of Public Works, 1 Director of Governmental & Community Relations, 1 Energy Lead in Sustainability Office, 1 Chief of the Energy Climate & Compliance Officer, 1 Environmental Health Specialist, 1 Resource Plans Reviewer, 1 Emergency Planner, 1 Agricultural Land Preservation, Program Administrator. I asked them: What are your most pressing environmental and economic needs?

In order of most pressing needs first, came this list: (1) Flooding, Storm-water Issues (2) Failing Septic Systems (3) Nature Remediation for Erosion, Heat Islands (4) Environmental Justice (5) Waste Emissions (6.) Education about the Climate Crisis. (7) Support for Alternative Energy Options (Solar) (8) Transportation Infrastructure (9) Energy Efficiency for Affordable Housing.

HB695 creates an important structure to address these documented needs. It gives our state and its local jurisdictions a framework to start the process to analyze and implement the reduction of greenhouse gases necessary to slow down the effects of our changing climate. We must approach our emissions reduction plans thoroughly and methodically. That starts with conducting a baseline greenhouse gas emissions inventory of existing conditions in the county and establishing realistic county targets. HB695 importantly includes developing a plan for identifying the communities and infrastructure within the county that are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

HB695 prioritizes actions that will have the most meaningful impact on addressing the effects of climate change in the county; holds at least two public hearings; and provide an opportunity for public comment. As one county Representative suggested, "Let's create a cross department, integrated team, that includes community members to review proposals from trusted Community Based Organization and avoid a county procurement process."

For these reasons and more, we urge a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB522

Respectfully submitted,  
Climate XChange Maryland and the Rebuild Maryland Coalition

Hope Clark  
Maryland Organizer  
443-399-613

Cc: Members of the Education, Health, Environment Affairs Committee

**SB 552\_mgoldstein\_fav 2022.pdf**

Uploaded by: Mathew Goldstein

Position: FAV





Secular Maryland

secularmaryland@tutanota.com

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February 24, 2022

### **SB 552 - SUPPORT**

Environment – Climate Crisis Plan – Requirement (Better Together to Save Our Weather Act of 2022)

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

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration developed the Annual Greenhouse Gas Index ("AGGI" for short). Updated yearly, the AGGI compares the combined warming influence of the long-lived greenhouse gases—atmospheric gases that absorb and radiate heat—to their influence in 1990. They chose 1990 because that is the year that countries who signed the U.N. Kyoto Protocol agreed to use as a benchmark for their efforts to reduce emissions. By the end of 2020, the warming influence of human-produced greenhouse gases had risen 47 percent above the 1990 baseline. The AGGI has continued to rise steadily since at least 1980. According to the EPA, 35% of CO<sub>2</sub> is created by the transportation sector, 31% by the electricity, 16% by industry and 11% by residential and commercial. For methane it is 30% natural gas and petroleum, 27% enteric fermentation, 17% landfills. For nitrous oxide it is 75% agricultural soil management. For fluorinated gases it is 92% substitution of ozone depleting substances.

The urgency of the climate crisis we are facing should not be understated. This is an existential threat that needs to be addressed now. If passed, this bill, by requiring County governments to participate in taking action, will help put us on track to reversing decades of emitting green house gases that have contributed significantly to the decline of our common environment. We encourage this committee and our General Assembly to step up to our generation's challenge of creating a cleaner Maryland that is healthier for everyone.

Respectfully,  
Mathew Goldstein  
3838 Early Glow Ln  
Bowie, MD

# **TESTIMONY FOR SB0552 Environment - Climate Crisis**

Uploaded by: Monica O'Connor

Position: FAV



## TESTIMONY FOR SB0552

### Environment - Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement (Better Together to Save Our Weather Act of 2022)

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Kramer

**Committee:** Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Monica O'Connor, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am offering this testimony in strong support of SB0552 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing. The Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing is an association of more than 50 grassroots environmental groups across the state. We believe in responsible stewardship of our environment that supports and protects all Marylanders.

We applaud Senator Kramer for bringing such important, common-sense legislation. We are all more than aware that we are living in a climate emergency. Some counties in Maryland have already started, or completed, plans to try to mitigate the effects of the climate crisis, and make their communities less reliant on fossil fuels and mitigate the effects of climate change as much as possible.

This is something that can't be done in little isolated islands. The whole state should participate if everyone is to benefit. This is not to say that the state should be off the hook. The state needs to lead in this process, but each county should create a Climate Action Plan that is tailored to the threats that the county is facing.

Environmental justice should be front and center in each plan, as should transportation and land use. However, some counties will face greater threats from flooding, whereas the greatest threat in other counties centers around a lack of public transportation or an overabundance of fossil fuel infrastructure. Whatever the major threat, a plan of action should be in place.

Waiting for someone else to figure it out, or worse yet, waiting for a disaster that takes lives, is not an option. We cannot imagine the cost of failure to enact this legislation.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.



**SB 552\_CBF SUPPORT.pdf**

Uploaded by: Robin Jessica Clark

Position: FAV



# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

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*Environmental Protection and Restoration  
Environmental Education*

## **Senate Bill 552**

Environment – Climate Crisis Plan – Requirement  
(Better Together to Save Our Weather Act of 2022)

Date: February 24, 2022

Position: Support

To: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

From: Doug Myers, Maryland Senior Scientist

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Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** SB 552 which requires counties to develop climate crisis plans addressing climate mitigation and adaptation strategies at the local level, with particular attention to adaptation needs to protect vulnerable communities.

The most effective governmental crisis response is based on an established plan that has been thoughtfully created with input from not only the implementing entity but also those that the plan aims to protect. The same will undoubtedly be true with regard to planning for the environmental crises that will result from climate change and sea level rise.

Climate change symptoms such as torrential rainfall events, heat waves, floods, and tides are occurring with increasing, yet unpredictable frequency. Local governments are not prepared for the eroding shorelines, subsiding farm land, and catastrophic floods that they will face. During these events, those citizens who live in low-lying areas and urban centers often experience greater life safety threats and worse property damage. The climate crisis plan adaptation elements in this bill will identify and prioritize actions to address vulnerable communities and provide options for farmers struggling to make a living on farmland that has become marginal because of saltwater intrusion.

Maryland has set and continues to improve ambitious greenhouse gas emissions reductions which will require implementation at the local level. The climate crisis mitigation components of the plans required by this bill will align local government actions with national and state greenhouse gas reduction goals to take advantage of support funding for these crucial transitions to our infrastructure. The planning required in this legislation provides an opportunity for local government to consider the most cost-effective approach for local mitigation actions.

**CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on SB 552.** For more information, please contact Robin Jessica Clark, Maryland Staff Attorney at [rclark@cbf.org](mailto:rclark@cbf.org) and 443.995.8753.

Maryland Office • Philip Merrill Environmental Center • 6 Herndon Avenue • Annapolis • Maryland • 21403  
Phone (410) 268-8816 • Fax (410) 280-3513

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 109,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.

**BDC - 2022 - SB 552- climate change county plan(2)**

Uploaded by: Aaron Greenfield

Position: FWA



**To: Education, Health and Environment**  
**From: Bioenergy Devco**  
**Subject: Senate Bill 552, Environment – Climate Crisis Plan – Requirement  
(Better Together to Save Our Weather Act of 2022)**  
**Date: February 24, 2022**  
**Position: Favorable with Amendments**

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Bioenergy Devco supports with amendment Senate Bill 552, Environment – Climate Crisis Plan – Requirement (Better Together to Save Our Weather Act of 2022).

This testimony is offered on behalf of Bioenergy Development Company (BDC), the foremost providers of anaerobic digester solutions and is a pioneer in this sector. For over 20 years and more than 250 biogas plants built and 140 managed throughout the world, our team of experts in the fields of: engineering, biology, chemistry and the microbial sciences, agronomy and soils, designers has significant experience in the design, construction and operation of anaerobic digester power plants and thus offers expertise in service, consultation and biological support. With BDC's U.S. headquarters in Maryland, our first industrial scale anaerobic digester is near completion in Jessup at the Maryland Food Center Authority.

Senate Bill 552 requires each county to prepare a climate crisis plan to address the effects of climate change in the county. Each county must submit its plan to MDE for review and feedback. The bill prescribes specific areas that the plan must address and the manner by which the county should prepare the plan.

Amendment: BDC supports this legislation and would urge an amendment to require the county plans to encourage the use of “organics recycling” as a tool to reduce greenhouse gas emission.

On page 4, line 6, strike “AND”; in line 7, strike “.”; after “PLAN” add “; AND”; after line 7 insert “(XVIII)ENCOURAGING THE USE OF ORGANICS RECYCLING.”

State Policy: In 2019, the General Assembly passed House Bill 510 defining “organics recycling” as processes in which organic material are collected, separated or processed and returned to the marketplace in the form of raw materials or products. Practices like composting and anaerobic digestion are examples of “organic recycling.” Section 9-1701(n)(1) of the Environment Article.

Additionally, last session, the General Assembly passed HB 264/SB 483 Solid Waste Management – Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals, requiring. Beginning January 1, 2023, commercial entities that generate more than 2 tons per week of food residuals and are located within 30 miles of an organics recycling



facility will be required to separate and divert food residuals away from final disposal in landfills and incinerators.

Given the General Assembly's support for organics recycling which reduce greenhouse gas emissions, encouraging the use of "organics recycling" within each county plan benefits the environment and is consistent with state policy.

For these reasons, Bioenergy Devco respectfully requests a favorable report with amendment on Senate Bill 552.

For additional information, please contact Aaron J. Greenfield at 410.446.1992

**SB552\_MDSierraClub\_fwa 24Feb2022.pdf**

Uploaded by: Josh Tulkin

Position: FWA



Maryland Chapter  
P.O. Box 278  
Riverdale, MD 20738

**Committee: Environment and Transportation**

**Testimony on: SB 552 - Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement (Better Together to Save Our Weather Act of 2022)**

**Position: Support with Amendments**

**Hearing Date: February 24, 2022**

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club supports SB 552 but would like to propose some amendments for the committee's consideration. This legislation requires counties to prepare a plan to address the effects of and reduce their contribution to climate change. The counties will be required to plan for a number of issues they are facing today, including infrastructure risk mitigation, controlling greenhouse gas emissions, and transitioning to green energy sources.

Climate change is eroding our shorelines and cliffs, bringing changing weather patterns to our crops, and removing the snow from our mountains. While the state considers its contribution to and mitigations against climate change, this bill addresses a gap in how it will be addressed at the county level. This is an important step in engaging local communities in the fight against climate change.

This bill does not require counties to take specific action and leaves the planning to those at the local level. By requiring counties to hold public hearings and develop a plan to address how their constituent communities should be protected from climate change it involves important stakeholders and decision-makers in the process. The bill also provides support from the Department of the Environment to provide feedback on proposed plans.

While we understand the need for the bill to defer planning to local governments and avoid specific targets in some areas, the bill could be improved by requiring a plan of action and milestones for sourcing clean and renewable energy and achieving net-zero emissions.

We urge a favorable report, but propose the following amendments which would require counties to develop plans to achieve 100% clean and renewable energy and achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions:

- Pg. 2 replace "Increasing the county's use of renewable energy" with "Developing a plan to support sourcing of 100% of the county's energy from clean and renewable sources by a given date"
- Pg. 3, replace "establishing greenhouse gas reduction targets for the county" with "Developing a plan for achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by a given date"

Founded in 1892, the Sierra Club is America's oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization. The Maryland Chapter has over 70,000 members and supporters, and the Sierra Club nationwide has over 800,000 members and nearly four million supporters.

The proposed amendments would set specific goals for the counties to achieve in these critical performance areas while allowing for the counties to plan to achieve those goals through processes that best fit their local conditions. We believe that SB 552 would be a valuable addition to the process of mitigating the effects of climate change and transitioning our state to clean energy by engaging county governments and local communities and we encourage a favorable report.

Brandon Smith  
Clean Energy Team  
smithb3@gmail.com

Josh Tulkin  
Chapter Director  
Josh.Tulkin@MDSierra.org

**SB0552-EHE\_MACo\_OPP.pdf**

Uploaded by: Dominic Butchko

Position: UNF



## Senate Bill 552

*Environment – Climate Crisis Plan – Requirement  
(Better Together to Save Our Weather Act of 2022)*

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Education, Health, and Environmental  
Affairs Committee

Date: February 24, 2022

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **OPPOSES** SB 552. The bill requires all counties to adopt a broad and unwieldy climate crisis plan, even though counties would not have the ability to implement it.

SB 552 is clearly introduced with the goal of reducing emissions and energy consumption across the public and private sectors. Counties both recognize and support their proper role as players in helping to address and mitigate climate change. In every corner of the state, counties are taking action to reduce emissions and leave a healthy environment for the next generation.

While counties already partner with the State on stewardship responsibilities, SB 552 presumes that the county level is the only tier of government suitable for developing these plans. While counties frequently seek authority and flexibility under state law, a matter as widespread as climate response stretches beyond political boundaries – and has generally been best addressed at the watershed, regional, or larger scope.

Multiple Maryland counties have adopted climate action plans, with varying focus. However, the breadth and scope of the plans envisioned under SB 552 is broader and far more all-encompassing than any amount of authority currently vested in county governing bodies. *The proposed plan includes aspirations to change not only public but private buildings, vehicles, energy systems, and the like.* Mandating each individual county to develop plans for mass transit strains the imagination – as no intra-county system would pass any reasonable cost/benefit analysis.

Requiring these county plans, without any capacity to affect their components, underscores the incorrect placement of these plans at the county level. Counties lack the authority to back up the broad vision of the plans, and almost certainly lack both the expertise and the resources to single-handedly generate a product with the level of detail required under SB 552.

Counties are already taking actions to mitigate climate change, but the framework proposed in SB 552 is not tenable. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to issue an **UNFAVORABLE** report for SB 552.

# **Jason Ascher - Oppose - SB 552 - Environment - Cli**

Uploaded by: Jason Ascher

Position: UNF





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**Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee**

**To:** Senator Pinsky, Chair; Senator Kagan, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee.

**From:** Jason Ascher, Political Director, Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association – United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters

## **OPPOSE SB 552 – Environment – Climate Crisis Plan – Requirement (Better together to Save Our Weather Act of 2022)**

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association, our five United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters Locals, and our over 10,000 members plus their families across all corners of Maryland, I ask you to **OPPOSE SB 552**.

As we move to renewable energy sources and eliminate fossil fuels the state needs to keep track of three important things. Protecting the workers, protecting the stability of the electric grid, and protecting taxpayers from excessive transition costs. We are not against the creation of a climate crisis plan, just the whole sale elimination of natural gas from energy sector, especially while renewable energy infrastructure cannot replace it.

Hard working Marylanders build and maintain the infrastructure needed to keep our electric grid operating. These workers earn good family sustaining wages with benefits so they can take care of their families, spend money in the community to help support local businesses, and pay taxes. Eliminating fossil fuels infrastructure would cost many of these hard-working Marylanders their jobs and ability to do these things. The jobs created to replace them in the renewable energy sector are typically lower paying than the ones they will lose and do not include the same benefits.

Everyone wants to be able to use their cell phones and computers. They also enjoy watching TV and Movies. To continue to do these things you need a safe flow of electricity on the grid. Removing fossil fuels from the grid before renewable infrastructure has been built to replace it could cause major issues with the electrical grid and lead to people not having the ability to use their phones, computers, and televisions. We need to make sure enough renewable infrastructure is built to support the fossil fuels you are removing from the grid.

Finally, if you require taxpayers to replace fossil fuel operating HVAC, water heaters, etc., there is a cost that many would not be able to afford. There would also be a need for these taxpayers to upgrade the electric wiring in a home. Studies have shown that these upgrades could cost as much as \$30,000 to \$40,000 per home. This is an expense that many working-class taxpayers cannot afford. This is also true of the increased rent costs landlords would pass on to their tenants to make these upgrades.

I ask that you remove this elimination of nature gas language from the legislation. Carbon reductions can be met by increasing renewable infrastructure and adding carbon capture and sequestration. For these reasons I ask you to **OPPOSE SB 552**

Sincerely,

Jason Ascher  
Political Director  
Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

# **SB552- Environment- Climate Crisis Plan .pdf**

Uploaded by: Kristi Simon

Position: UNF



**Central Maryland Chamber**  
*The Center of Intelligent Business*

Legislative Position: Unfavorable  
Senate Bill 552  
Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 23, 2022

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee,

The Central Maryland Chamber of Commerce (CMC) was formed in 2017, a merger of two existing chambers- The Baltimore Washington Corridor Chamber (originally founded in 1948) and the West Anne Arundel County Chamber (originally founded in 1962). The CMC is a regional organization representing approximately 350 businesses in the Central Maryland corridor and exists to be the primary business resource and advocate as the area experiences exponential growth.

The Central Maryland Chamber is writing to oppose SB552.

Senate bill 552 creates a requirement for each individual county within the state of Maryland to prepare its own climate crisis plan and submit their plan to the Maryland Department of the Environment by 6/1/23 with a final plan due by 1/1/24. Each county will be required to update and resubmit their plan every 3 years.

It is our opinion that it is difficult enough for a small state like Maryland to implement statewide plans and mandates, having each individual county with their own programs on top of statewide plans will cause severe differences between counties and may cause one county to be more competitive than others. This will make it incredibly difficult for the businesses within those counties to abide by different rules and different timelines depending on where they're located, especially if they have multiple locations or do business across county lines.

Our businesses already struggling with the many restrictions within the state, as well as laws that vary county by county. There is much discussion this session about a statewide greenhouse gas bill. If that passes, HB695 would then implement 24 additional plans on top of the state bill which will only cause expense and confusion.

The Central Maryland Chamber requests that you vote unfavorably on SB552.

**MBIA letter of Opposition SB 552.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lori Graf

Position: UNF

February 24, 2022

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky  
Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building,  
2 West Wing 11 Bladen St.,  
Annapolis, MD, 21401

**RE: Opposition SB 552 Environment - Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement (Better Together to Save Our Weather Act of 2022)**

Dear Chairman Pinsky:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **SB 552 Environment - Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement (Better Together to Save Our Weather Act of 2022)**. MBIA **Opposes** the Act in its current version.

This bill would require that individual counties create their own individual climate action plans to be submitted to the Department of Energy for review. MBIA respectfully opposes this measure. The effort to combat climate change need to be undertaken in a coordinated way and this structure will insure that Maryland has no coordinated policy for combatting this issue. Additionally, there is no funding mechanisms in this bill to offset the costs of the plans and it will which will result in unfunded mandates in the individual counties hampering their ability to effectively utilize their resources.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure an unfavorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or [lgraf@marylandbuilders.org](mailto:lgraf@marylandbuilders.org).

cc: Members of the Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

# **SB 552\_MDCC\_Environment-Climate Crisis Plan-Requr**

Uploaded by: Maddy Voytek

Position: UNF



**MARYLAND**  
Chamber of Commerce

**LEGISLATIVE POSITION:**

**Unfavorable**

**Senate Bill 552**

**Environment – Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement**

**Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee**

**Thursday, February 24, 2022**

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 5,500 members and federated partners working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic recovery and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

SB 552 requires each county to prepare a climate crisis plan and to submit that plan to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for review and feedback on or before June 1, 2023. Each county would be required to finalize their plan on or before January 1, 2024, and then review and update their plan once every 3 years

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce is concerned with the variability in the county-by-county plans that would result from SB 552. Maryland businesses struggle to contend with the differing laws and regulations that currently exist across Maryland's 24 political subdivisions. Regarding the issue of climate change, it is common practice for businesses to develop one greenhouse gas reduction or sustainability plan to implement across their locations with an eye to the State's objectives and timelines. SB 552 would potentially add 24 different sets of regulations, likely stricter than State requirements, with varying degrees of implementation timelines on top of what they are already complying with.

With so much focus and debate during the 2022 legislative session on a new statewide greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce would urge the committee to not consider layering 24 different local requirements on top of what could be new and aggressive statewide goals.

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests an **unfavorable report** on **SB 552**.

MDCHAMBER.ORG

60 West Street, Suite 100, Annapolis 21401 | 410-269-0642

**SB 552 - OPPOSE - St. Mary's County.pdf**

Uploaded by: Randy Guy

Position: UNF





**Senate Bill 552**

Environment – Climate Crisis Plan – Requirement  
(Better Together to Save Our Weather Act of 2022)

**OPPOSE**

February 15, 2022

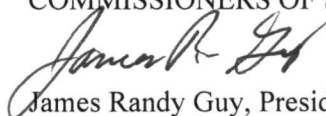
Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair  
Maryland Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West  
11 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Pinsky:

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County **OPPOSE** SB 552 - Environment – Climate Crisis Plan – Requirement (Better Together to Save Our Weather Act of 2022) which will be heard in the Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee.

We oppose SB 552 and request an unfavorable report. We do not believe this legislation will benefit the citizens of St. Mary's County. We look forward to working with you on this and other initiatives throughout the session.

Sincerely,  
COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

  
James Randy Guy, President

CSMC/AB/sf  
T:/Consent/2022/057

Cc: Senator Jack Bailey  
Delegate Matthew Morgan  
Delegate Gerald Clark  
Delegate Brian Crosby  
Commissioner Eric Colvin  
Commissioner Michael Hewitt  
Commissioner Todd Morgan  
Commissioner John O'Connor  
Catherine Pratson, Acting Co-County Administrator  
David Weiskopf, Acting, Co-County Administrator

# **SB0552 - Local Climate Action Plans - NAIOP Testi**

Uploaded by: Tom Ballentine

Position: UNF



February 24, 2022

The Honorable Paul Pinsky, Chair  
Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Oppose SB 552 – Local Climate Action Plans**

Dear Chair Pinsky and Committee Members:

The NAIOP Maryland Chapters represent more than 700 companies involved in all aspects of commercial, industrial and mixed-use real estate. NAIOP opposes SB 552 as introduced.

NAIOP supports coordinated implementation of state climate mitigation plans but opposes SB 552 as introduced because it will lead to a patchwork of inconsistent, uncoordinated energy, transportation and building code requirements across the state.

Since 2009 Maryland has developed and managed climate mitigation and adaptation strategies through the authority and guidance of the Green House Gas Reduction Act. [GGRA]. The General Assembly required that those plans reduce emissions while also meeting performance metrics related to economic benefits, cost-effectiveness, energy price and reliability. The question raised by SB 552 and other climate legislation is whether and how you will require local plans to conform to the requirements of the GGRA.

Plan development is always aided by the use of Integrated Assessment Models [IAMs] that evaluate the emissions reduction potential and economic impacts of policy options. These models are not likely to be part of the local process making adequate policy development difficult to accomplish.

The policy levers that can reduce emissions from automobiles technologies – utility and energy policy - are generally not within the jurisdiction of state government and the Public Service Commission.

**For these reasons we respectfully request your unfavorable report on SB 552.**

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "T.M. Ballentine". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name of the sender.

Tom Ballentine, Vice President for Policy  
NAIOP Maryland Chapters -*The Association for Commercial Real Estate*

cc: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee Members  
Nick Manis – Manis, Canning Assoc.