



March 28, 2022

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve  
Delegate, Maryland General Assembly  
Taylor House Office Building, Room 251  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support for SB 528, Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022

Dear Delegate Barve:

On behalf of the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), I am writing to offer our support for Senator Pinsky's bill, SB 528, the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, before the House Environment and Transportation Committee. As the association of local governments in metropolitan Washington, COG supports this effort to increase the State of Maryland's greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goals, as well as other initiatives included in the bill that would support these new goals.

In 2020, the COG Board of Directors adopted a new GHG emission reduction goal for 2030, which calls for a 50 percent emission reduction below 2005 levels by 2030. This aligns with the level of effort called for by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees. Currently, Maryland mandates a 40 percent GHG emission reduction by 2030 based on 2006 levels. The Climate Solutions Now Act would increase this reduction to 60 percent, with the additional goal of achieving net-zero GHG emissions by 2045. This bill would not only bolster the emission reduction goal but would also establish programs to help achieve the necessary emission reductions. For example, the bill includes initiatives such as the development of strong building energy efficiency requirements, as well as zero-emissions vehicle requirements for the State vehicle fleet and school buses, which would greatly facilitate efforts to achieve more ambitious GHG reduction goals. These initiatives would also align with COG's legislative priorities and the Metropolitan Washington Planning Framework for 2030. For this reason, COG fully supports the passage of the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022.

Please contact Jeffrey King, COG Director of Climate, Energy, and Air Programs at (202) 962-3238 or [jking@mwcog.org](mailto:jking@mwcog.org) if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Koran Saines'.

Koran T. Saines  
Chair, Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee