

Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home

Responding to the cry of the Earth
and the cry of the poor.

March 29, 2022

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker of the House
House of Delegates
Maryland General Assembly
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
House of Delegates
Maryland General Assembly
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Dana Stein
Vice Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee
House of Delegates
Maryland General Assembly
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Madam Speaker, Chair Barve, and Vice-Chair Stein:

I am writing on behalf of Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home (MCCH) in support of **passage by the House of Delegates of SB 528, the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, without weakening amendments**. Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home is a lay-led organization of Catholics from parishes in the three Catholic dioceses in Maryland: the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington. It engages in education about, and advocacy based on, the teachings of the Catholic Church relating to care for creation. MCCH is a voice for the understanding of Catholic social teaching held by a wide array of Maryland Catholics, but should be distinguished from the Maryland Catholic Conference, which represents the public policy interests of the bishops who lead these three dioceses.

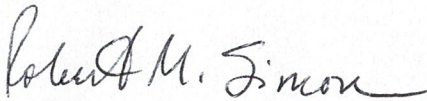
MCCH's strong support for House passage without weakening amendment is reflected by the **more than 700 signatures** (in person and electronic) that it has gathered over the last several weeks **from**

Catholics who are members of 30 different parishes across the State of Maryland (in all three Catholic dioceses), and who live in 33 of Maryland's 47 legislative districts.

As Catholics, we see care for God's creation as an integral part of our faith, as taught by recent Popes, including the forceful statements of Pope Francis in his encyclical "Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home" and subsequently that "The climate crisis requires our decisive action, here and now, and the Church is fully committed to playing her part." The Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 embodies this broad moral vision and urgency. The bill's focus on urgent and comprehensive action to address the climate crisis, by a multiplicity of actors at different levels, is consistent with Pope Francis's teaching. Its focus on action that will benefit Maryland's low-wealth communities and communities of color is an appropriate response to the disproportionate impacts of pollution and climate change on these communities. And as members of Catholic parishes that are currently facing high utility bills, we see the value of a focus on energy efficiency in our own buildings that saves money and frees up more of the financial resources we provide each Sunday, so that they can serve the most important missions of our parishes.

Thank you for your consideration of our views and our respectful request for **passage by the House of Delegates of SB 528 without weakening amendments.**

Sincerely yours,



Robert M. Simon

for Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home