



HB1263 Environment – Office on Climate Change – Establishment

Testimony before

Environment and Transportation Committee

March 9, 2022

Position: Favorable

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Barbara Matheson, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today in **support of HB1263.**

The state of Maryland faces many serious environmental challenges. Climate change endangers people's health and poses serious economic risks. This is the critical "decade of delivery". Action from the state government can unlock and accelerate the transition to a resilient, zero-carbon future. The establishment of the Office on Climate Change moves the state of Maryland forward.

Establishing an Office on Climate Change is a **bold and mandatory** step to insure implementation of necessary best practices and provides a mechanism to bring additional rigor and credibility to net-zero progress. The Office on Climate Change can promote innovation, larger scale approaches, and stronger incentives. The Office on Climate Change will be critical in ensuring systematic responses, providing better data to understand priorities and track progress, and building stronger networks. It will insure economic justice and accountability across agencies.

Protecting the environment isn't just an investment in the future – it also brings immediate public health and economic benefits. By acting boldly to address these global warming threats, we can improve millions of lives today – and build a safer, healthier

future for the generations to come. The establishment of an Office on Climate Change is a great step in this fight.

Thank you for your efforts on this very important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

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