



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

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Testimony in Support SB 528 - Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022

To: Delegate Barve, Chair and the members of the Environmental and Transportation Committee

From: Phil Webster, PhD Lead Advocate, Climate Change
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland.

Date: March 24, 2022

The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland (UULM-MD) strongly supports **SB 528 Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022** and urges a FAVORABLE report by the committee.

The UULM-MD is a faith-based advocacy organization based on the Principles of Unitarian Universalism. Two Principles are particularly relevant. The Second Principle, Justice, equity and compassion in human relations and the Seventh Principle, Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

This legislation has notable provisions of justice and equity. We know that global climate change impacts marginalized communities first and worst. How can there be justice and equity if one part of society is reaping in the benefits, while another is paying all of the costs? The CSN Act creates the *Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities Commission* to ensure that under invested communities are not left behind. The Act creates a *Just Transition Employment & Retraining Working Group* to ensure workers will receive fair and equitable labor standards and family-sustaining jobs. The Act also creates the *Maryland Climate Justice Corps* focusing on preparing youth for careers in green energy. We would support an amendment of this portion of the Act to include a \$15 per hour wage with benefits.

We also believe that we should all have respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. We all know that the growing use of fossil fuels increases greenhouse gasses (GHG) leading to increasing global temperatures, increased frequency and intensity of severe weather and sea level rise. We applaud the accelerated targets for GHG reductions. The Act includes admirable provisions in energy generation and efficiency, reducing GHG reductions in the transportation and buildings sector, and starting to address methane leakage in landfills.

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All Marylanders need bold and urgent action! Please keep us on the right and moral path towards a livable climate and a sustainable world. We owe it to our children.

We support this bill and recommend a FAVORABLE report in committee.

Phil Webster, PhD

Lead Advocate, Climate Change UULM-MD

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