



Mayor and Council of Rockville

SB 528: Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022

SUPPORT

The Rockville Mayor and Council are thankful to Chair Barve and members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee for the opportunity to comment on SB 528 Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022. The Mayor and Council support the objectives of SB 528 and State efforts to demonstrate climate and energy leadership.

As reflected in our recently adopted Climate Action Plan, the City prioritizes actions to address climate change through emission reductions and climate resilience. We are pleased that climate legislation is also a priority for the General Assembly and are encouraged by the robust discussions and efforts to work with stakeholders in the Senate to move this legislation forward. This has resulted in amendments to the bill that detail a more thoughtful implementation process, address questions related to infrastructure readiness, and provide more flexibility for achieving building emission reduction requirements.

SB 528 strengthens Maryland's current statewide greenhouse gas emissions reduction requirement of 40 percent to 60 percent from 2006 levels by 2030 and requires the State to achieve net-zero statewide emissions by 2045. SB 528 contains a multi-pronged approach to achieve these goals. We agree with the bill's provisions that prohibit highway widening or additional road construction to be used as emission reduction pathways in the State's climate plan. Rockville is pleased with state leadership aiming to expand the state's electrical vehicle fleet, support the construction of net-zero schools, and reduce emissions from large buildings. The creation of the Climate Catalytic Capital fund and the Climate Transition and Clean Energy Hub are important for both the State's and City's climate and equity goals. Finally, the City supports efforts to develop and implement strategies to address climate change in disproportionately affected communities and the establishment of a Climate Justice Corps.

We understand the House will continue to work with stakeholders to resolve any outstanding issues and we strongly encourage the ultimate adoption of this legislation. We thank the House for the opportunity to comment.

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