



Hearing before the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
Maryland General Assembly  
February 15, 2022

**Statement of Support (FAVORABLE)  
from Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home on  
SB 528, the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022**

Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home (MCCH) 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 would like to express its strong support for passage of Senate Bill 528, the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022. 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. The Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 embodies this broad moral vision. The bill's focus on urgent and comprehensive action to address the climate crisis is consistent with Pope Francis's stated view that this crisis constitutes an emergency. 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.

MCCH's position in favor of the Climate Solutions Now Act in last year's session of the General Assembly was supported by individual endorsements by well over 200 Maryland Catholics, who were members of 41 different parishes across the three dioceses, and who lived in 33 of Maryland's 47 Senatorial legislative districts. This list of strongly committed Catholics included many who are active leaders in their parishes, religious orders, and wider communities. MCCH is collecting similar individual endorsements this year and expect to be able to show both broad and deep support for this bill among Maryland Catholics during the course of this session.

Thank you for your consideration of our view and our respectful request for a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 528.