



Office of the Mayor  
**Gavin Buckley**

160 Duke of Gloucester  
Annapolis, MD 21401

March 6, 2023

Education, Energy and the Environment Committee  
Maryland State Senate  
Annapolis, MD

**Letter in Support of SB 843: Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Payment Program**

Dear Senators in the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee,

I write in strong support of SB 843. While Annapolis pursues different funding sources to meet the challenges of climate change, we believe those who pollute should pay to help clean up the mess.

Annapolis sits at the convergence of two major rivers and is surrounded by creeks, making the Capital City of Maryland especially vulnerable to the challenges of sea level rise. While we are prepared to meet the challenge of climate change with ideas for resiliency, we are not prepared to meet the price tag.

With increased frequency and more intense flooding in many coastal communities, Annapolis has been named as one of the most vulnerable cities in America. Here, we face challenges from both land subsidence and sea level rise. In fact, Stanford University selected Annapolis as the subject of a study to demonstrate revenue lost through climate change impacts. Rising seas also threaten the cultural heart of Annapolis as well as structures important to our nation's history.

Annapolis will soon be endeavoring to reimagine our downtown harbor, "Annapolis City Dock," with a more than \$65 million infrastructure project to divert floodwaters and create barriers to rising seas. The City is working with the United States Naval Academy to protect our downtown businesses and residential and cultural assets. This is the first of too-numerous-to-count, costly projects required along our 24-miles of coastline.

Many other projects will need to be completed and City taxpayers should not, and cannot, fund such large scale infrastructure. Those who knew their business operations were causing climate change should be held to account. Thank you for this legislation and I urge a YES vote in your committee with the proposed amendment that ensures that this legislation does not inhibit or preclude a local jurisdiction from pursuing a civil action or other remedies against fossil fuel companies.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Buckley".

Mayor Gavin Buckley  
City of Annapolis