



**Testimony in Support of Climate Crisis Plan Requirement
SB 0250
Education, Energy, and the Environment
2/09/2023**

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Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund**

On behalf of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund, I urge a favorable report on SB 0250.

The climate crisis is already incurring costs for Marylanders that is eating up state and local budgets. Annapolis is already spending [\\$50 million to update their dock](#). There are public schools in Maryland that never used to need air conditioning that now need to have air conditioning installed, which will [cost more than \\$700 million in new equipment](#). Our 3,000 miles of low lying coastline makes Maryland one of the states most exposed to the damage of sea level rise. By 2040, [rising sea levels are expected to cost Maryland more than \\$27 billion](#). These changes and others will keep costing Marylanders, and urgent action is needed to reduce climate pollution.

That is why it is imperative for every county to make an updated plan for how it will reduce emissions.

The good news is that wind and solar coupled with batteries to provide 24/7 power is now the cheapest form of electricity. EVs are now the cheapest way to drive, and electric heat pumps are the cheapest way to heat and cool your home. We can achieve 100% clean electricity and use that electricity to run our economy and save money in the process, but that won't happen without a plan.

As of this year, [99% of all coal plants in this country are more expensive than local renewable energy would be](#). That's why the Dickerson coal plant closed and is in the process of being replaced, megawatt for megawatt, with solar plus batteries. That's why three quarters of all the new power generation built last years was wind, solar, and batteries, a percentage that has been shooting upwards every year.

With falling costs for clean technology, coupled with the new investments from the Inflation Reduction Act, we are living in a new world where the clean choice is the cost effective choice. However, we are still working against the powerful force of inertia. It is always easiest to keep doing what you are doing, even if by doing something new you can create more jobs, lower costs, and save lives through reduced air pollution.



That's why every county would benefit from being required to make a climate crisis plan, and why CCAN Action Fund supports this legislation.

Sincerely,
Jamie DeMarco

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