



House Bill 147/SB250

Environment – Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement

Position: **OPPOSE**

Date: 2/9/23

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

The Caroline County Commissioners **OPPOSE** HB147/SB250 Environment – Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement. The Caroline County Commissioners, in partnership with the Caroline County Department of Emergency Services and the Caroline County Environmental Health Office have analyzed this legislation and determined the following:

To implement this legislation, as proposed, would require the County to hire a contractor to conduct an appropriate impact study that addresses all the facets of the bill. It is estimated that it will cost between \$50k-\$75k to hire an appropriate vendor, and the findings of the vendor will take many years to implement at a cost that vastly exceeds the County's current operating budget. Additionally, the County will have to incur administrative expenses associated with hiring additional personnel to implement the proposed programs as well as write and maintain the required plans.

In addition, this legislation does not address the following:

- The loss of shoreline and billions of dollars in real estate due to climate change and natural processes. It does not mention any planning or zoning requirements to plan for this inevitable loss.
- Space for renewable energy.
- Does not address the impact to drinking water supply – saltwater intrusion to wells.
- Does not address the loss of onsite sewage disposal.
- Does not address the impact to existing public sewer & water infrastructure.
- Does not address the disposal and lack of recycling of renewable energy equipment.
- Does not address the necessary upgrades to public and private infrastructure to support increase demand for electricity.
- Does not address the loss of revenue from decreased gasoline taxes for infrastructure maintenance and expansion.
- Large shift of responsibility from State to County governments with limited direction, goals or standards stated or implied.
- Does not mention any aid, assistance, or resources for the counties in drafting these plans.
- The inherent limitations or viability of alternative transportation and public transportation in a rural setting.
- Acquiring the necessary real estate for the sequestering of carbon in any county.

- The requirement of changes to commercial energy use has significant financial and regulatory implications.
- Doesn't mention or recognized any county plans already in place.
- Doesn't seek any input from county entities.
- Addition requirements to county budgets for new required programs and administration.
- Lastly, there is not source of funding listed or implied for any of the requirements. This implies counties will have to absorb these costs and will lead to higher property tax rates for all.

With this, we respectfully request an unfavorable report on **HB147/SB250**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Travis Breeding". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

J. Travis Breeding
President
Caroline County Commissioners