

Committees: Environment and Transportation

Testimony on: HB147, Environment - Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement

Position: Favorable

6 February 2023

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and the members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

The University of Maryland – College Park, Student Government Association supports HB147 which requires each county in Maryland to prepare a climate crisis plan to address the effects of climate change.

My life has been defined by what my generation can do. We are always told that we are the generation who has to change it all: everything has become our responsibility, and our future is now up to us. We have an opportunity to change Maryland for the better – to make our state sustainable, beautiful, and an important partner in the journey of tackling climate change.

Our state has seen the visible impacts of climate change – while we may not have polar ice caps melting in our midst, we average 10 days a year when heat exceeds disastrous levels, with future projections increasing that number to 40 years per year by 2050. This situation will only continue to get worse as we leave this problem on the back burner. Today, we have an opportunity to make a difference and start changing our home. There is a natural beauty in the world that we continue to destroy without addressing climate change.

Our generation holds the burden of a world falling apart around us. We must implement public policy that addresses the root causes of climate change – because it is not only our environment that is impacted. Healthcare changes, racial justice will change, and our whole world will change if we do not step forward. Among other provisions, the bill increases county-wide usage of renewable energy, expands energy efficiency programs, reduces energy consumption, and overall, will be the reason Maryland has an impact on climate change.

I respectfully request a favorable vote on HB147.

Thank you,



*Jahnavi Kirkire, Student Government Association Deputy Director of Civic
Engagement
University of Maryland — College Park,
jkirkire@umd.edu*