



**Committee: Environment & Transportation**

**Testimony on: HB147 – Environment – Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement**

**Organization: Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing**

**Submitting: Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair**

**Position: Favorable**

**Hearing Date: February 8, 2023**

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today. The Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of over 50 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on HB147.

HB147 requires each county to prepare a Climate Crisis Plan (Plan) to address the effects of climate change and to submit the Plan to the Department of the Environment for review and feedback by June 1, 2024. A final plan is due by January 1, 2025, and the Plan must be updated every three years thereafter.

The impacts of climate change are very evident in Maryland from rising sea levels and salt water intrusion to severe storms and flooding to extreme heat. Counties are often at the front lines of responding to climate-driven emergencies, and therefore, should play a significant role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for and adapting to climate change impacts.

HB147 calls upon counties to do the requisite planning needed to be ready. Each county will prepare a plan that details ways to: expand the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures; reduce fossil fuel use in buildings and transportation; sequester carbon through habitat preservation and restoration; and become more resilient through infrastructure planning; reduce heat island and human health impacts; and minimize risks to residents and businesses.

It is much less costly to minimize risks than to respond to disasters. HB147 will ensure that counties develop a Plan to minimize the risks of climate change. Therefore, we support HB147 and urge a FAVORABLE vote.