



# Maryland

## Department of the Environment

Wes Moore, Governor  
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor

Serena McIlwain, Secretary Designate  
Suzanne E. Dorsey, Deputy Secretary

February 08, 2023

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
House Office Building, Room 251  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

### **Re: House Bill 147- Environment – Climate Crisis Plan – Requirement**

Dear Chair Barve and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or the Department) has reviewed HB 147 *Environment – Climate Crisis Plan – Requirement* and would like to provide some information. HB 147 would require each county in Maryland to prepare a climate crisis plan to address the effects of climate change in the county and to submit its plan to MDE for review and feedback on or before June 1, 2024. Each plan must address, at a minimum, 17 enumerated areas of concern.

Maryland has the most ambitious climate goal of any state in the United States. Per the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, MDE is required, by June 2023, to produce a proposed climate plan for the State including measures to reduce emissions 60% by 2031 while producing net economic and job benefits for Maryland.

Counties and municipalities play a critical role in climate mitigation and adaptation. However, the way counties approach this role differs based on each jurisdiction's available resources and capacity. Some counties in the State have a formal climate plan in place. Others are incorporating resilience and adaptation responses as part of their comprehensive land use plans and zoning, water and sewer plans, emergency response plans, and the implementation of certain permits issued by the Department, such as the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permits. MDE will continue to be a partner to all counties and collaborate in ensuring the State climate plan is incorporated in local plans, programs, and practices.

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor HB 147 during the committee's deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-260-6301 or by e-mail at [Gabrielle.Leach@maryland.gov](mailto:Gabrielle.Leach@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

*Gabrielle Leach*

Gabrielle Leach

cc: Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo  
Christopher R. Hoagland, Air and Radiation Administration