



**HB147 – Environment - Climate Crisis Plan -
Requirement**

Testimony before

House Environment & Transportation Committee

February 8, 2023

Position: Favorable

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Barbara Matheson, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in support of HB147, to mandate county governments to establish a plan for addressing state goals set by the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We appreciate the leadership of Del. Fraser-Hidalgo for sponsoring this important legislation.

This ACT – Climate Crisis Plan - requires each county to prepare a climate crisis plan to address the effects of climate change and to submit its plan to the Department of the Environment for review and feedback. Time deadlines are established for county and Department of the Environment compliance with procedures. Each county will review and update its plan with a certain frequency.

There is unequivocal evidence the Earth is warming at an unprecedented rate. There is indisputable evidence that greenhouse gas emissions are responsible. The State of Maryland took bold action in 2022: Climate Solutions Now established essential carbon caps and set in place necessary strategies. HB147 moves Climate Solutions Now from paper policy to legal actions. It embodies a whole government approach, significant policy changes, detailed regulations, and rapid innovation. This is in keeping with the urgency and complexity of the problem.

We now have less than ten years to impact the climate crisis. We have the data and technologies to solve the problem. What can be lacking is political will. HB147 puts responsibility on county and state government to TAKE ACTION NOW. This is transformative action. It is a law for a safe climate - a better, just and prosperous future for the citizens of Maryland and the world.

Thank you for your courage and consideration of this essential legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable committee report.

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