

Committees: Environment and Transportation

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

Position: Favorable

30 January 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 that requires each county in Maryland to prepare a climate crisis plan to address the effects of climate change.

My name is Alana Ginsburg and I am a student at the University of Maryland, currently living in College Park studying environmental and atmospheric science. Both in and out of the classroom, it has become apparent to our scientists, scientists-in-training like me, and the public alike that our weather patterns are shifting towards the more unfamiliar and more extreme. A federal report stated that for every \$1 spent on preparing for these natural hazards, \$6 is saved¹. Having county climate crisis plans provides a structured way for these preparations to be made, as local county and town governments are ultimately the ones who have jurisdiction over the infrastructure that needs to be adapted.

We can mitigate the level of catastrophe that will threaten our future families and livelihoods if we transition to low and zero carbon infrastructure and transportation, and these climate crisis plans will ensure that every county in Maryland is doing their part to lower their emissions. Implementing the policies of climate action plans also creates more equitable living options and is an investment into our people and communities. Your support of HB0147 would signal that the state of Maryland is truly committed to creating a more sustainable, inclusive future.

I respectfully request a favorable vote on HB147.

Thank you,



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¹https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_mitsaves-factsheet_2018.pdf