

**TESTIMONY FOR HB0147**  
**Environment - Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo  
Committee: Environment and Transportation  
Organization Submitting: Lower Shore Progressive Caucus  
Person Submitting: Jared Schablein, Chair  
Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0147 on behalf of the Lower Shore Progressive Caucus. The Caucus is a political and activist organization on the Eastern Shore, unaffiliated with any political party, committed to empowering working people by building a Progressive movement on the Lower Eastern Shore.

We are in a crisis without a proper plan to address the severity of the situation. We have adopted proactive steps as a state by legislating goals for the carbon reductions which are required to prevent the very worst repercussions of the climate crisis. The individual counties do not have a systematic plan to match. Some counties have implemented both active decarbonization initiatives and contingency preparations and the majority of our state's counties have opted to do nothing. By any measure, this strategy is a failure.

In order to confront the problem, determine how to best mitigate its effects on their county, and contribute to the accomplishment of our state goals, this bill mandates that each Maryland County establish a climate crisis strategic plan. The Maryland Department of the Environment must be notified of this plan and asked to provide feedback on its viability. Additionally, the bill mandates that the counties revise their strategies every three years. The bill specifically requires the plans to:

- Increase renewable energy use;
- Expand energy efficiency programs and to reduce the energy use for residential, commercial and public buildings;
- Reducing or eliminating the use of fossil fuels in the design of new buildings;
- Retrofit existing buildings to be all-electric;
- Transition all vehicles, including buses and school buses to be electric;
- Design and implement safe infrastructure to promote alternative modes of transportation such as biking and walking;
- Increase electric vehicle charging infrastructure;
- Benchmark all buildings;
- Establish greenhouse gas reduction targets;
- Sequester carbon dioxide through habitat preservation, increasing urban forests;
- Develop composting sites for residential and commercial waste;
- Identify the communities and infrastructure within the county most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, including how to mitigate the heat island effect, access to emergency

cooling, improving air quality, addressing climate-related health care needs; and establishing energy efficiency programs, including financial support for heating and cooling systems;

- Create adaptation strategies for mitigating the risk

There is nothing like being prepared when you are facing a crisis. We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.