

**Committee:** Environment and Transportation

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

**Position:** Favorable

3 February 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.

I was a Girl Scout for 13 years, which exposed me to environmental stewardship at a young age. As a kid, I adored hiking trips, gardening and science experiments out in nature. When I was older, this morphed into stream clean ups, organizing CSAs, and storm drain labeling. As I grow older, I don't feel the same sense of confidence in what I do to protect the environment as I did when I was a Girl Scout. At a certain point, individual action isn't enough to reverse the tide of climate change. As a sustainability studies student, I feel a sense of impending doom as I continue to study the environment and climate change. This is my generation's future, and many of us feel like there is little that can be done to stop it.

At this point, there is no denying that we are in a climate crisis. We see the dangerous impacts of climate change across the state of Maryland every day.

This bill sets forth the necessary requirement for each county to have a climate crisis plan, which should increase use of renewable energy, reduce energy consumption, electrifying buildings, and establish greenhouse gas reduction targets. It also requires an aspect of this plan to identify and address communities who are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

I respectfully request a favorable vote on HB147.

Thank you,



*Caroline Thorne, Student Government Association Director of Government Affairs*  
*University of Maryland — College Park,*  
*cthorne@terpmail.umd.edu*