



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

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo

**Committee:** Environment and Transportation

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0147 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state with well over 30,000 members.

We are on a sinking ship without a plan. Truly. As a state, we have acted responsibly to codify goals for the emissions reductions that we need to stave off the most dire effects of the climate crisis. But the counties? Where are their plans? Some counties have successfully created not only contingency plans, but have put in place active measures to decarbonize. But most counties in the state have chosen to sit and wait. This is not a successful approach by any measure.

Thus, this bill requires each Maryland County to create a climate crisis plan to address the crisis and how to best remediate the effects on their county and to do their part in working towards our state goals. They must report that plan to the Maryland Department of the Environment who must comment on the viability of the plan. The bill also calls for the counties to update their plans 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 adaption 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.