

Committees: Environment and Transportation

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

Position: Favorable

6 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.

The effects of climate change are seen already, and we know how it will further affect our lives. My feelings and perspectives on climate change are shared by my generation, as well as those younger than me. Right now, we know the climate crisis is going to harm us, but passing HB147 could help.

You may not see the worst effects of climate change, but my generation will. We will be the ones whose houses are swallowed by the sea. We will be the ones who must ration our scarce food. We will be the ones unable to enjoy summer, for it has become too scorching to withstand. We will be the ones always fearing the next hurricane that will wipe away everything we have worked for. But you, those at the levers of power, have the power to stop this in which my generation will suffer. We will not have the chance to right the mistakes of the previous generations and their pollution; it will be too late for that.

I wish to be a politician in the future, and it pains me that, no matter what, no policy of mine will be able to help prevent or adapt to climate change. We will already be living in a world impacted so severely by climate change that the idea of stopping it will seem pointless, if you do not act today. Right now, the impacts of climate change will fall on my generation's backs. But the duty to help the future Marylanders falls on you, now. You have the opportunity to make the decisions that future generations cannot.

By passing HB147, you help to prepare the societies of your children for a future drastically altered by climate change. While it does not undo the damage created by climate change, it is truly a step towards the new world we must construct to adapt to these harsh realities. I, and the younger generation, would be grateful for its success.

I respectfully request a favorable vote on HB147.

Thank you,



Trevor Hennebery, Student Government Association Legislative Staff
University of Maryland — College Park,
thenny@terpmail.umd.edu