

Committees: Environment and Transportation

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

Position: Favorable

4 February 2023

Dear Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and the members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

Cities may be different, but the stories remain more or less the same. We all have faced our own share of extreme weather events caused by climate change. It's either flooding or drought, polar vortex, or heatwave. We witness these extreme events throughout the nation. With obvious evidence and scientific data showing us what we need to do, it is only sensible to act upon it to save our future.

I am a Mechanical Engineering student. I should be working on creating systems to make our lives easier. I should be researching novel sustainable materials and technologies to reduce waste, not pleading with everyone here to make immediate and bold climate action. As a student, I cannot help but feel overwhelmed and helpless in the face of this climate crisis. But I also know that I am not alone. I know that you, too, care deeply about the future of our state, our country, and our planet. And I know that you all have the power to make a difference.

That is precisely why I am imploring you all to take a stand, today. It is truly exhausting playing catch up with climate change. Let us grab the bull by its horn and stop the climate crisis dead in its tracks. Let us ensure that we have a handle on this crisis before it spirals any further out of control. This calls for a comprehensive, climate crisis plan that addresses the root causes of this crisis and takes bold action apriori to mitigate its impacts. A plan that prioritizes renewable energy, encourages sustainable transportation and protects our vulnerable communities.

Climate Crisis Plan essentially provides a much-needed guideline for the counties to address the root causes of the climate crisis and help in their climate conservation efforts. So I ask you, as our elected representatives, to take this issue seriously and make it a priority. Let us ensure that Maryland becomes the frontrunner that is ready to lead the nation on climate action and not wait until it is too late. In case you missed it, the time to act is now.

I respectfully request a favorable vote on HB147.

Thank you,



*Vishal Sivasankar,
Mechanical Engineering,
University of Maryland, College Park
vsivasan@terpmail.umd.edu*