

HB147: Environment - Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement

House Environment and Transportation Committee

February 8, 2022

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Barve and Members of the Committee,

Clean Water Action supports HB147 to require that counties prepare and submit to the Maryland Department of the Environment a climate crisis plan to address the effects of climate change in their county.

Despite our small geographic area, Maryland has significant and wide impacts from climate change. On the Eastern Shore and low lying areas, saltwater intrusion on crops, flooding, and rising water tables pose risks to communities and infrastructure. On peninsulas and communities that must traverse vulnerable roads, rising water and larger storm events will cause problems for emergency services. Heat island effect, especially in more urbanized counties, is a growing concern. Without emergency cooling or heat island mitigation, summer heatwaves can become deadly.

HB147 sets counties up to prepare for climate change now, when we can both take mitigation and adaptation strategies to reduce warming and be prepared for what may come. Planning today will encourage efficient adaptation to new threats and will mitigate the damage to our infrastructure, communities, and people.

For this, we urge a favorable report.

Thank you,
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