



Senate Bill 779

Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2025

Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

Date: Feb. 25, 2025

From: Chip Bertino, Worcester County Commissioner

My name is Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertino and I'm writing in support of Senate Bill 779, which would give counties more flexibility in meeting the state's climate goals.

The Climate Solutions Now Act provided us with laudable climate goals but little information on the costs associated with moving the state to clean energy. As the substantial financial implications of these changes become clear, I'm grateful that our lawmakers like Senator Gallion have acknowledged the significant expense that comes with reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This bill provides local governments and school systems with more latitude in meeting the state's climate targets. It ensures that compliance with the new standards does not impose an excessive fiscal burden on local governments.

As a local government official, I appreciate this commonsense approach and legislators' support of counties as they partner with the state to move Maryland toward net-zero.

I urge you to provide a favorable report to Senate Bill 779. Thank you for your time.