



SIERRA CLUB

MARYLAND CHAPTER

P.O. Box 278
Riverdale, MD 20738

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Testimony on: HB 1451, Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2025

Position: Oppose

Hearing Date: March 11, 2025

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club urges an unfavorable report on HB 1451. This bill addresses the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, and adds the words “to the extent economically practicable” to 11 different provisions of existing law.

The Climate Solutions Now Act (CSNA) was enacted in 2022 and is a landmark policy that provides a roadmap to protect Marylanders’ health and minimize our climate impact. In addition to establishing a goal of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 60% by 2031 and achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2045, the bill established the Building Energy Performance Standard (BEPS) and many more important provisions relating to just transition of fossil fuels, school bus electrification, building electrification and efficiency, and environmental justice.

Sierra Club supports climate policies that benefit not only the environment, but also support our economy and protect Maryland most vulnerable to environmental harms. We also support the use of cost-benefit analysis and other tools to achieve balanced policy. **While we appreciate the intent of this legislation, we oppose HB 1451 as an overly broad, misguided attempt to revisit the language passed in 2022.**

The CSNA already includes significant cost-benefit analysis, and requires that the state's climate plan must "produce a net economic benefit to the State’s economy and a net increase in jobs in the State". The CSNA also has other provisions to require net-positive economic benefits. The CSNA utilizes different tools of analysis and decision making for different processes, which include new regulations, creating a state climate plan, workgroups, and more.

Maryland’s Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, released in December 2023, found that the included “new policies will generate up to \$1.2 billion in public health benefits, \$2.5 billion in increased personal income, and a net gain of 27,400 jobs between now and 2031 as compared with current policies. Average households will save up to \$4,000 annually on energy costs.”¹ Amending CSNA as HB 1451 proposes could disrupt and delay several processes underway.

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Mariah Shriner
Climate Campaign Representative
Mariah.Shriner@MDSierra.org

Josh Tulkin
Chapter Director
Josh.Tulkin@MDSierra.org

¹ Page 4. MDE, Maryland’s Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, December 28, 2023.