

**Committee: Budget and Taxation****Testimony on: SB 116 - Board of Public Works – Contract Review – Climate and Sustainability Information****Position: Support****Hearing Date: February 18, 2026**

The Maryland Sierra Club urges a favorable report on SB 116. This legislation requires an agency to provide climate and sustainability information when submitting a contract to the Board of Public of Works. This information would include how the contract contributes to the state’s greenhouse gas reduction goals, provides for resilience or adaptation to extreme weather events, and incorporates design principles consistent with Building Energy Performance Standards and standards adopted by the Green Building Council.

It is important that agencies provide this information to the Board of Public Works so that the Board can determine if these contracts are in alignment with the state’s goals to cut climate pollution and build a more liveable future for everyone. The Maryland Department of Environment’s [preliminary greenhouse gas emissions inventory](#) indicated that we are falling further behind on achieving the state’s climate goals and indicated there was a 0.2% **increase** in net emissions in the state compared to 2020.

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 other key provisions relating to just transition of fossil fuels, school bus electrification, building electrification and efficiency, and environmental justice.

It is critical the Board of Public Works has the information it needs to ensure that investments we are making are moving us in the right direction. 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. In order to realize these benefits, we must first have a way to assess if state procurement and funding decisions are helping us stay on track to meet these goals.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on SB 116.

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