



January 28, 2021

Senate Bill 0414
Climate Solutions Now Act
Committee: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

This bill provides a comprehensive strategy to combat greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to real, tangible climate change impacts facing current and future residents of Anne Arundel County. The Anne Arundel County Administration believes the bill's combination of energy efficient building standards, emission reduction targets, renewable energy incentives, fleet conversion requirements, aid to local governments and school districts and a groundbreaking urban and rural tree planting campaign represent the most comprehensive statewide strategy to date to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, lower temperatures in urban areas and usher in a new, greener and more resilient economy.

Climate change is having real, measureable impacts on Anne Arundel County residents and businesses today, and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions everywhere is critical to preventing even worse climate impacts for future generations. In 2019, the City of Annapolis recorded 18 high-tide, or "nuisance" flooding events. A 2019 report¹ by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts the City could experience such events every other day by 2050 due to rising sea levels. And the Maryland Department of Transportation estimates that many coastal communities within Anne Arundel County could find themselves within regulated floodplains due to sea level rise by 2050 and 2100.²

Comprehensive strategies, such as those called for in this bill, are needed to mitigate the harm climate change will have on our communities. Anne Arundel County has also taken steps to mitigate emissions locally, including recently passing legislation requiring the County to transition to zero-emission vehicles. However, these transitions are costly and will take a significant amount of time if additional funding is not provided to local governments. For this reason, the Administration encourages the sponsors and members of the Committee to consider amendments to the bill that would provide grants to local governments to fund fleet conversion infrastructure feasibility studies, charging infrastructure construction and the difference in costs between conventional and zero-emission vehicles.

For all these reasons, the Anne Arundel County Administration requests a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** vote on SB 0414.

¹ NOAA. 2019. 2019 State of US High Tide Flooding with a 2020 Outlook: NOAA Technical Report NOS CO-OPS 092. Available at:

https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/publications/Techrpt_092_2019_State_of_US_High_Tide_Flooding_with_a_2020_Outlook_30June2020.pdf.

²Maryland Department of Transportation. 2016. GIS Data Products to Support Climate Change Adaptation Planning: Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Available at:

<https://www.esrgc.org/documents/resources/reports/GIS%20SLC%20Report%20-%20Anne%20Arundel.pdf>.

