

January 28, 2021

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 414 – *Climate Solutions Now Act***

**Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee,**

I support SB414, the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021.

This bill ensures Maryland will be part of the new green future by:

- Ensuring Maryland is in line with the current climate science by committing us to a 60% reduction in carbon emissions below 2006 levels by 2030 and to reaching net zero emissions by 2045
- Restructuring our approach to climate justice by mandating that a percentage of all future climate spending must go to “disadvantaged” communities in terms of climate change, a term to be defined by experts and stakeholders
- Ensuring that labor voices are represented in our planning process, and that jobs benefit those who need them most
- Taking several immediate steps to reduce emissions, such as planting 5 million native trees by 2030, electrifying state vehicles, requiring several net neutral buildings and mandating energy efficiency increases

As a 16-year-old, I have grown up with the knowledge that my future is threatened by climate change. I have watched leaders ignore this issue for years but climate change is not something we can ignore for any longer than we already have. We have the technology that we need to combat climate change and we know what we need to do in order to make the transition to a greener world equitable and just. Now it is up to you to act.

International experts have urged action on climate with increasing fervor in recent years for good reason: the consequences of staying the course will be highly dangerous. Here in Maryland we have a lot at stake, with nuisance flooding, high heat days and storm surges already regular occurrences. We have an opportunity to listen to scientists now while signaling to the nation that Maryland is ready to embrace the new green economy. There is no more time to delay on meaningful climate action.

I encourage a FAVORABLE report for this essential legislation.

Signed,  
Emma