

TAKOMA PARK MOBILIZATION

Environment Committee

Committee: Education, Health & Environmental Affairs
Testimony on: SB414 - “Climate Solutions Now”
Organization: Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
Person
Submitting: Diana Younts, co-chair
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: January 28, 2021

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

We are testifying today to urge you to vote favorably for SB414. Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee is a grassroots organization focused on state and county level climate action. We support SB414 because it would bring Maryland into alignment with the most recent scientific recommendations for addressing climate change, fixes Maryland’s flawed draft greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction plan, ensures that communities disproportionately burdened by environmental pollutants and other hazards are an integral part of the solution to climate change, and provides a just transition for workers. In our testimony, however, we would like to focus on how the bill also supports Montgomery County’s ambitious Climate Action Plan.

SB 414 Supports Montgomery County’s Climate Action Plan (CAP): Montgomery County has committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2027 and 100% by 2035 and has issued its draft Climate Action Plan outlining the steps to achieve that goal. Here are some of the ways SB414 complements Montgomery County’s Climate Action Plan and helps significantly in achieving Montgomery County’s greenhouse gas reduction goals.

- Increasing the State greenhouse gas reduction goals and thus narrowing the gap between the County and State goals.
- Increasing State energy efficiency requirements from 2 % to 3 % which will provide more funding for County building energy efficiency improvements.
- Providing funding from the State Transportation Trust Fund for zero emission public transit buses.
- Providing funding from the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund for ambitious tree planting with a carve-out for urban areas that can help with County carbon sequestration goals.
- Providing loans for net zero school buildings from the State Strategic Energy Investment Fund which can help electrify County schools.

- Providing building measures to dramatically increase efficiency of new construction and adding a requirement for solar ready roofs.

For these reasons we urge you to vote favorably for SB414.