

January 24, 2021

SUPPORT: SB0414 Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee,

The Howard County Conservancy Student Climate Change Institute strongly supports SB0414 Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021.

Climate change is an issue that profoundly impacts Maryland considerably more than other states. Maryland is at risk of experiencing another one-foot rise in sea level due to climate change by 2050 and as much as a three-foot rise by 2100, contributing to higher storm wave heights, greater flooding in low-lying coastal areas, exacerbated shoreline erosion, and damage to property and infrastructure. By supporting this legislation which will put Maryland on track to achieve net-zero statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 and plant 5 million trees by 2030, you will make the future brighter for millions of young Maryland residents like us. We would not have to endure a multitude of severe storms and heatwaves. We would not have to suffer from the adverse effects of climate change on our health. We would not have to experience widespread food shortages. By supporting this bill, you will not only protect future generations of Marylanders but also set a precedent for other states to follow suit.

The Climate Solutions Now act commits to investing resources into overburdened and underserved communities. It is well known that these communities are disproportionately affected by climate change, and these negative effects do not just impact one generation, they impact several generations to come. The passage of this bill will help alleviate these adverse effects on low-income and minority populations and help create a more sustainable future for all Maryland residents. A bill like the Climate Solutions Now act gives us and peers of our age immense hope for a better and brighter future. In order for us to live in a world that is not burdened by consistent extreme weather, widespread diseases, fatal heat waves, deadly flooding, lethal air quality, and constant civil unrest, immediate action is crucial. Widespread local action and legislation are key to combating the global climate change crisis, and Climate Solutions Now is a powerful step in the right direction. Climate Solutions Now demonstrates Maryland's initiative to create a safer, cleaner, and more sustainable environment for generations to come. We need to take this powerful step, and we need to take it now. Let Maryland be a leader for influential climate change legislation, and let's do our part in battling the climate change crisis.

We applaud Senator Pinsky for his commitment to battling climate change and the environment. We strongly advocate for a favorable report on this bill.

Thank you for your consideration on behalf of the Howard County Conservancy Student Climate Change Institute.

Saketh Sundar of River Hill High School, Oliver Song of Wilde Lake High School, Evan Borodin and Zainab Zarnish of Reservoir High School