

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.

Globally, we are at a critical choice point that will determine the course of our future forever. Climate change is already here, and we are the last generation that will be able to course correct towards a livable future for all. However, we have the tools, resources and knowledge to take action right now.

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

I have always grown up being told climate change will affect me and my future. In the past few years I have noticed drastic change in weather, the Old Ellicott City floods, mild winters, and extremely hot summer days. This will only continue to progress unless action is taken. We have a plan and we have solutions all we need now is your support.

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,
Michelle Hershfeld