

Joe Anderson
President

January 25, 2021

Patricia Samford
Vice President

Subject: SB0414: Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021

Larry O'Brien
Secretary

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee - January 28th, 2021

Chandler Wyatt
Treasurer

FAVORABLE

Melina Cavathas
Director

Dear Senator Pinsky and members of the Committee,

Captain Will Gates
Director

Without reservation, we strongly request a favorable finding for SB0414, the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021.

John Giusti
Director

The St. Mary's River Watershed Association is actively fighting for our Chesapeake Bay in three measureable ways—increasing the acreage of vibrant oyster habitat, installing storm water control devices on residential and small business properties, and installing riparian buffers and natural shoreline protections. These activities give us a firsthand look at how climate change is already impacting our Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

Emily Jackson
Director

Captain Paul Kellam
Director

David Lewis
Director

Water temperature, especially in July and August are reaching heights rarely seen decades ago. In the St. Mary's River the past few years, water temperature has risen to 31 degrees Celsius. These high temperatures, a direct result of climate change, are negatively impacting aquatic life—oysters do not breed successfully and fish are moving to cooler waters further north. Warmer waters are causing even small algae blooms to expand rapidly and cause larger and more persistent dead zones.

Bob Paul
Director

John Spinicchia
Director

Elaine Szymkowiak
Director

Shorelines are also being impacted, especially tidal marsh areas. Back 25 or more years ago, the ten-acre marsh in front of our field office was lush with marshmallow that bloomed every May. Today the area has no mallow living there. Sea level rise and persistent higher tides have killed all the woody plants such as mallow. The marsh now is dominated by grasses. Even small sea level rise has already changed our environment depriving us of the beautiful soft pink blossoms that permeated the marsh years ago. Sure other negative impacts are occurring that remain unseen at this time.

These are the local impacts of climate change on our river. Greater impacts are being felt elsewhere and none is more important and the need to address more pressing that the loss of our trees. Trees are the source of oxygen for us to breathe and they cleanse the air of pollutants. SB0414 is the first step in reversing the loss of our forests and tree canopies.

It is imperative that Maryland begin to take very bold steps to reverse climate change. The economics of waiting to react is a real danger—it will cost more over time the longer we wait to do something to arrest climate warming.

SB0414 is a necessary step to continue Maryland's pursuit of zero carbon emissions, which is the key to saving our waterways from overheating and our marshes from being inundated. We request the Committee return a FAVORABLE report on SB0414.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joseph Anderson, president