



January 28, 2021

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

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

WISE supports 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

We are a group of over 500 women in Anne Arundel County. We are seeing our children’s future jeopardized by the crisis unfolding before us. The science of climate change is clear – as is our lived experience. Rising waters in the County, sunny day flooding, high temperature in the summer and erratic weather is now commonplace. We believe the science and anticipate that our elected officials will act with the necessary urgency this moment calls for. We cannot waste more time.

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.

We encourage a FAVORABLE report for this essential legislation.

Signed,  
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