

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

I, Robert Wald, 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

My wife and I raised our son in Montgomery County. We have witnessed dramatic climate changes in the 23 years since he was born, and we are afraid for our son’s future and for the future of his children and successive generations. It’s obvious that the federal government and all states, including Maryland, need to take significant steps right now in order to avoid the worst effects of global warming.

Although Maryland is facing economic and health challenges, we can’t afford to delay enacting robust climate legislation. This legislation will put Maryland on the right path for the climate and at the same time will help improve the health of all Marylanders and help turn around the state’s economy, creating new jobs and careers.

For the sake of all our children and grandchildren—yours and mine—I encourage a FAVORABLE report for this essential legislation.

Signed,  
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