



**Testimony in Support of SB 414 – Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021
(Chairman Pinsky)
FAVORABLE**

January 28, 2021

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

In addition to our organizational testimony in support of SB 414, Strong Future Maryland is proud to present the public comments of more than 50 Maryland residents who strongly support this legislation. The people of Maryland want our state to be a climate leader, and take decisive steps to protect our environment and our future. Many of them write about wanting their children and grandchildren to inherit a livable planet; others highlight the importance of addressing environmental justice through public policy. The message is clear: Marylanders support SB 414, and are calling on the General Assembly to take climate action this session.

Public Comment:

James Bell
Montgomery County

I believe clean and sustainable energy policies are effective in fighting negative climate change affecting all persons and the U.S. economy.

Dominique Edmondson
Prince George's County
Build a green economy that works for everyone.

Linda Murphy
Prince George's County

The climate crisis is jeopardizing life on Earth as we know it. Every aspect of life is already being affected by an increasing number and intensity of fires, by stronger and more frequent hurricanes, by freak weather systems that bring 100 year rains to areas, including Maryland's Hyattsville community where my neighbors have had their basements flood twice in the last few years due to overwhelmed sewer systems, etc. If we do not do everything in our power to address climate change, life on Earth as we know it will cease to exist.

Dr. Craig Ilgenfritz
Baltimore County
Our existence is at stake if we do not effectively act now!

G. Countryman-Mills
Montgomery County
We do not have time to dither and postpone any longer. Please act now!

Sister Patricia Kirk
Baltimore County
Climate change and our attention to it is LONG overdue!

Taina Litwak
Montgomery County
Our air and water quality MATTER.

Tracey Katsouros
Charles County
We need to build a green economy that works for everyone, and give crucial support to underserved communities impacted by climate change. We must do everything we can as soon as possible.

Peggy Meyer
Baltimore City
We are destroying our planet and the poor are suffering disproportionately. We need to care!

David Band
Montgomery County
We need to pass the Climate Solutions Now Act so the future will be safe for the next generations.

Anne Matey
Wicomico County
We are in danger of losing many plants that can not adapt quickly enough to climate change. This will directly affect our entire ecosystem and disruption of the environment with detrimental effects!

Wally Minnick
Washington County
I support climate solutions for future generations' health and well-being.

John Hamilton
Howard County
Our children deserve a CLEAN environment.

Marijane Monck
Howard County
We can't waste any more time and must act now.

Aaeron Robb
Baltimore City
We will have no future without true change.

Amy Mason
Baltimore County
Climate change affects all living things - humans, plants and animals. More severe storms that result from climate change are devastating communities by damaging homes and businesses. Those with lower incomes are most severely affected by climate change because their options are limited. This in turn hurts everyone. We need to act now to help limit the damage.

Lisa Finstrom
Montgomery County
We face catastrophic climate consequences if we don't act.

Gail Fisher
Montgomery County
We are losing our canopy, our insects, our birds, and all else that sustains life.

Molly Hauk
Montgomery County
Climate change is extremely important. We have to put it first.

Anna Weitzman
Montgomery County
We are all dependent on healthy ecosystems for our survival. These ecosystems are facing destabilization and extinctions from climate change that will endanger humans as well as all other organisms. We must do all we can to protect our planet.

Paula Willey
Frederick County
We need to protect and clean our environment for ourselves, our children and our future Marylanders.

Andrew Bare
Frederick County
We need to treat the climate crisis seriously. Even as a small state, we are a wealthy state and need to do our part. If we can't figure it out, how can we expect others to.

David Seldin
Howard County
Increased warming and more extreme weather events will be catastrophic and costly.

Beverly Antonio

Queen Anne's County

It's crucial that we address climate change immediately. We already have frequent extreme weather, hotter temperatures and, here on the Eastern Shore, too much rain. It's wreaking havoc with my well and septic system. Our farmers are worried too.

Meagen Williams

Montgomery County

Climate change is the most urgent issue facing our state and our world. Government, business, non-profit, community and religious leaders must act. The Climate Solutions Now Act is the first step for Maryland and I strongly support it.

Sharon Nakhimovsky

Montgomery County

There will be no better time to act. The urgency is real, the danger is towards livability on earth. Please take this step towards science, towards life for our children and children's children. Please be brave and put long term interests for humanity and our ecosystem ahead of the short term needs of climate endangering industries.

Fred Morse

Montgomery County

It is needed, realistic, and will help every citizen in the state.

Joan Slettvet

Anne Arundel County

We owe it to our children and grandchildren to finally take action!

Rush Kester

Prince George's County

Maryland can do its part in limiting carbon emissions, such as promoting green energy, more bike lanes & hybrid public transportation.

Barbara Cavanagh

Baltimore County

MD must do all that it can to address climate change and set this as the highest priority in this legislative session.

Sherri Fisher

Baltimore City

The time is now to act swiftly. As a parent the work on climate change is a critical issue for my family to ensure my and every child a bright future. In a state on the front lines of climate change we risk not only the critical devastation of our lands but jobs and livelihoods. We live in Baltimore and the health inequities as a result of poverty are in many ways a result of and made worse through the climate crisis. It is important to support our communities through these changes and this bill does that. Protect our children's future in support of this bill.

Ron Witko
Queen Anne's County

We need to protect our environment and at the same time this will help spur new jobs.

Jacqueline Hillian
Prince George's County

The Climate Solutions Now Act will make a major difference in our environment now and the environment that will be left for generations to come. We see now how our environmental world is changing; forest fires are burning and the Amazon is being bulldozed for commerce. These issues will not allow us to pass down a healthy environment to generations to come.

Faith Kirk
Montgomery County

We are running out of time to successfully take the necessary action to save our community and state from the devastating results of climate change.

Nick Kyriacou
Anne Arundel County

Climate change is real. Maryland must take the next step to build a green economy starting in 2021 with SB 414 and HB 583. Requiring the State to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 60% from 2006 levels by 2030; requiring the State to achieve net-zero statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 2045.

Christine Pannell
Baltimore County

For the past 100 years we've been living on this planet with the attitude that our actions do not have consequences -- that plastics, fossil fuels, emissions, etc. do not impact us and thus don't warrant our time and attention. It is critical, and past due, that we take a hard look at the consequences of our actions and support legislation and policies that begin to end (and ultimately reverse) the immense harm we've done to this planet before it's too late for future generations. I support climate action because I want my nieces and nephews to inherit a planet that isn't on the brink of extinction, past the point of no return.

Mary Finelli
Montgomery County

The climate crisis is the gravest problem for life on Earth. It warrants paramount attention with swift and highly effective action.

Christine Latham
Prince George's County

We have a responsibility to provide a safe living environment for our children. What we do or don't do now, determines their right to a clean air future. Please do the right thing.

Eugenie Jenkins and Brian Holmes
Baltimore City

Climate change and environmental protection are the single most important issues that the world has ever faced. We either do something immediate and drastic or we let our future generations perish. Build the green economy ASAP.

Maj-Britt Dohile
Montgomery County

The climate crisis is the most important problem we face today. It's an existential threat for our children and grandchildren. We need to act!

Elaine Schwartzbach
Montgomery County

I support the Climate Solutions Now Act so my grandchildren can have a long, healthy life.

Krista Adams
Montgomery County

I think Maryland has a ways to go to protect not only our state resources but also in adding our voices loud and clear to the global conversation. We are guardians of the Chesapeake, a true natural wonder! Let's hold oil companies accountable and use their planet polluting profits to change our legacy and give the next generation the education they need to meet this global challenge.

Arlene Waldo
Baltimore County

We don't have much time to correct this man made problem. I would like to see my great nieces and nephews have a chance at life.

Patrick Corvington
Montgomery County

We need bold solutions and MD should be a national leader.

Ann Andrex
Frederick County

I want my granddaughters, and their grandchildren, to have a future with livable air, water, and soil.

Edward Larkey
Baltimore City

Much of the Eastern Shore and other coastal areas of the state are affected by rising sea levels caused by global warming, endangering people and wildlife, cities and rural areas. It is also greatly affected by air pollution and environmental degradation through the environmental damage caused by pollution of rivers and other waterways, especially the fishing and poultry industries.

Michael Italiano
Montgomery County

There is no greater issue facing mankind. If we do not act on climate and the planet becomes inhabitable, all other issues of the day are moot.

Liliane Floge
Montgomery County

Everyone and every locality must take whatever actions they can starting now to slow global warming. In my private life my family and I do all we can and encourage others to do so, but those individual actions are not enough. Actions must quickly and strongly be taken now.

Deborah Euzebio
Prince George's County

As a former educator...I support the Climate Solutions Now Act because environmental racism is real, and my students as well as so many families in Maryland are impacted by the emissions of greenhouse gases and how it affects our air quality. The future of our state, our nation, and our country depends on critical legislation like this to ensure the health of the next generation. I am urging the Maryland General Assembly to support and pass this bill as soon as possible.

Deanna Okrent
Montgomery County

Clean air is critical to raising healthy children, and preserving the future of our state and our country.

Eileen Nadolski
Howard County

For my entire adult life, I have been an Audubon bird watcher, member of Appalachian Mt. Club, and loved walking in the woods. I have watched abominable leveling of trees just in my Bonnie Branch neighborhood since I moved to Ellicott City, MD in 2002. This has created a huge imbalance in the environment for people and animals, for the educational resources of our community...Maryland's environment has deteriorated tremendously in the last 20 years due to corporate greed. Please support the Climate Solutions Now Act.

Richenda Van Leeuwen
Montgomery County

We need an 'all of the above' approach to climate action. We need to retire our remaining coal-fired generation and continue investing in developing lower carbon alternatives - including accelerating the potential development of Maryland's excellent offshore wind resources - while pursuing much more energy efficient policies for our commercial and residential buildings. We also need to plant more native trees - not only because they have some impact in terms of carbon capture and sequestration, but also because they help filter out particulates and are the lungs of a community. More urban tree canopy, more green space is psychologically good and lower pollution levels equate to fewer children suffering health effects from high pollution such as reduced lung capacity. This is an investment not only for the climate but also for our children and grandchildren in Maryland.