



Environment Committee

Committee: Education, Health & Environmental Affairs
Testimony on: SB414 - “Climate Solutions Now”
Organization: Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
Person
Submitting: Diana Younts, co-chair
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: January 28, 2021

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

We are testifying today to urge you to vote favorably for SB414. Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee is a grassroots organization focused on state and county level climate action. We support SB414 because it would bring Maryland into alignment with the most recent scientific recommendations for addressing climate change, fixes Maryland’s flawed draft greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction plan, ensures that communities disproportionately burdened by environmental pollutants and other hazards are an integral part of the solution to climate change, and provides a just transition for workers. In our testimony, however, we would like to focus on how the bill also supports Montgomery County’s ambitious Climate Action Plan.

SB 414 Supports Montgomery County’s Climate Action Plan (CAP): Montgomery County has committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2027 and 100% by 2035 and has issued its draft Climate Action Plan outlining the steps to achieve that goal. Here are some of the ways SB414 complements Montgomery County’s Climate Action Plan and helps significantly in achieving Montgomery County’s goal:

Climate Solutions Now Provisions:	Montgomery County Draft CAP Supported by SB414:
Increase greenhouse gas reduction goals from 40% to 60% by 2030 and net zero by 2045	Increased state GHG reduction goals help CAP by narrowing the gap between state & county GHG goals & by promoting GHG reduction in surrounding jurisdictions
Increase energy efficiency requirement from 2 % to 3%	SB414 provides state level legislation and funding for building energy efficiency goals specified by CAP
Funding for zero emission public transit buses (funds from Transportation Trust Fund)	SB414 provides legislation and funding for CAP Transportation Action to electrify Public and School Buses

\$5 M over 10 years with \$500K reserved for urban areas for tree planting (funds from Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund)	SB414 provides legislation and support for CAP Sequestration Actions to increase tree canopy and to restore forests, meadows, and wetlands
Net-Zero School Loan Fund (Loans from Strategic Energy Investment Funds – carbon fee from RGGI)	SB414 provides loan funding & legislation for CAP Buildings Action & Electrification Code Requirements for Existing Commercial and Public Buildings & Net Zero Energy Building Code for New Construction
Requirement for Solar Ready Roofs	SB414 provides legislation for CAP Energy Action for Solar Voltaic Systems and Code Requirements

Key Points:

The Climate Solutions Now bill will help Montgomery County implement its draft Climate Action Plan by:

- Increasing the state greenhouse gas reduction goals and narrowing the gap between the County and State goals.
- Increasing State energy efficiency requirements from 2 % to 3 % which will provide more funding for county building energy efficiency improvements.
- Providing funding from the State Transportation Trust Fund for zero emission public transit buses.
- Providing funding from the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund for ambitious tree planting with a carve-out for urban areas.
- Providing loans for net zero school buildings from the State Strategic Energy Investment Fund.
- Providing building standards to require new construction to have solar ready roofs.

For these reasons we urge you to vote favorably for SB414.