

18 Feb-2021

The Honorable Paul Pinsky, Chair
Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs Committee
Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Kumar Barve, Chair
Environment & Transportation
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Support of SB518/HB503 - Environment - Office on Climate Change - Establishment

Dear Chairs Pinsky and Barve,

On behalf of the Prince George's County Municipal Association (PGCMA), which represents the 27 incorporated cities and towns in Prince George's County, I am writing to express support for SB518/HB503. The bill establishes the Office on Climate Change within the Office of the Governor. Additionally, the bill facilitates the implementation of the recommendations from the Maryland Commission on Climate Change, ensures that State agencies address operational impacts on climate change, initiates and oversees climate change research and investigations, and assists local governments in the development of local climate change plans.

The members of PGCMA adopted climate change and the environment as one of our legislative priorities because we understand the importance and the role we all have in reversing the negative effects of climate change. By establishing the Office on Climate Change and its functions as described in the legislation, the State will be well-positioned to move forward in a coordinated way to implement measures that would protect the Chesapeake Bay, reduce our carbon footprint, and improve the quality of life for all Marylanders. Understanding that municipal jurisdictions do not all have the resources to address climate change, PGCMA applauds the sponsors for including language in the bill that will provide an opportunity for municipalities to receive assistance from the Office on Climate Change with creating climate change plans.

On behalf of PGCMA, I thank you for considering this legislation and I urge a favorable vote on SB518/HB503.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bennard Cann', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mayor Bennard Cann
President, Prince George's County Municipal Association