

BALTIMORE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY
People ♦ Planet ♦ Prosperity

February 9, 2021

Delegate and Committee Chair Barve
Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

RE: **Support** for HB0583, Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021

Dear Chair Barve and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee,

We are writing in support of HB0583, Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021.

The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability is a body appointed by the Mayor to oversee the creation and implementation of the Baltimore Sustainability Plan. The 2019 Baltimore Sustainability Plan addresses a wide range of social, economic and environmental goals for the City, and it does so through an equity lens.

The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability has a strong interest in the success of HB0583, which would help achieve numerous goals of the 2019 Sustainability Commission, including those related to Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Trees & Forests, and Local Economy. We recognize that climate change disproportionately impacts many low-wealth communities and communities of color, including impacts to health, local environment, and income. This bill will directly assist these communities by reducing harmful carbon emissions in order to improve public health; ensuring that a portion of state climate funds are spent on environmental justice communities; helping to create jobs at all levels; and increasing tree canopy in underserved urban communities.

We urge the Committee to support HB0583.

Sincerely,

Miriam Avins
Mia Blom
Co-chairs, Commission on Sustainability

Cc: Delegate Stein