



Committee: Environment & Transportation
Testimony on: SB414 - "Climate Solutions Now"
Organization: MLC Climate Justice Wing
Person
Submitting: Diana Younts, co-chair
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: March 31, 2021

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

We strongly urge you to give a favorable report for SB414 and that you add no weakening amendments. It is critical that the bill maintains its goal of 60% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and net zero by 2045. In order to achieve that goal it is also crucial that the provisions as they relate to buildings and energy efficiency are maintained.

Buildings generate a significant percentage of Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions. In Montgomery County, for instance, the Montgomery County Climate Action Plan notes that 50% of the County greenhouse gas emissions are generated by buildings. Therefore, addressing the energy efficiency of buildings is integral to Climate Solutions Now achieving its goal. We cannot afford to delay or water down the building provisions of SB414.

According to the US Green Building Council "A growing body of evidence suggests zero energy buildings are possible today with no added upfront cost and make for smart investments. Utilizing readily available products, practices, and technologies, new zero emission houses, apartments, offices, schools, institutions, and labs are being constructed in increasing numbers. With state and utility rebates for energy efficiency and renewable energy measures, these projects are being delivered at little or no additional first cost."

Residents of buildings, including low-income multifamily housing, face high costs on energy bills. Recent research with a focus on the Baltimore metro area (pre-pandemic) found that at least one-quarter of low-income households have energy burdens above 18%, which is nine times higher than the U.S. average. Cost effective upgrades to large buildings would help save Maryland families money on their energy costs.

We therefore request a favorable report on SB414, with no weakening amendments.

MLC Climate Justice Wing:

Assateague Coastal Trust
Maryland Legislative Coalition
MD Campaign for Environmental Human Rights
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
WISE
Frack Free Frostburg
Mountain Maryland Movement
Clean Water Action
Howard County Indivisible
Howard County Sierra Club
Columbia Association Climate change and sustainability advisory committee
HoCo Climate Action
CHEER
Climate XChange - Maryland
Mid-Atlantic Field Representative/
National Parks Conservation Association
350 Montgomery County
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
The Climate Mobilization Montgomery County
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
Audubon Naturalist Society
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church
Environmental Justice Ministry
Coalition For Smarter Growth
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County
MCPS Clean Energy Campaign

MoCo DCC
Potomac Conservancy
Casa de Maryland
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
Clean Air Prince Georges
Laurel Resist
Greenbelt Climate Action Network

Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
Concerned Citizens Against Industrial Cafos
Wicomico NAACP
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
Chispa MD
Climate Law & Policy Project
Maryland Poor Peoples Campaign
Labor for Sustainability
The Nature Conservancy
Clean Air Prince Georges
350 Baltimore
Maryland Environmental Health Network
Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis
Talbot Rising
Adat Shalom Climate Action
Mid-Atlantic Earth Holders
Climate Parents of Prince Georges
Echotopia
Maryland NAACP State Conference,
Environmental Justice Committee
Power Shift Network