



March 31, 2021

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 414 – *Climate Solutions Now Act*

Dear Chairman Barve, Vice-Chair Stein and Committee Members,

Quaker Voice of Maryland supports SB414, the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021.

Globally, we are at a juncture that will determine the course of our future forever. Climate change is here, and we are the last generation that will be able to change the course of the earth towards a livable future for all. We have the tools, resources and knowledge, and leadership to take action right now.

This bill ensures Maryland will be part of and provide leadership towards the new green future by:

- Ensuring Maryland is in line with the current climate science by committing us to a 60% reduction in carbon emissions below 2006 levels by 2030 and to reaching net zero emissions by 2045.
 - **Setting energy efficiency standards on large private buildings that are win, win, win for the climate, consumers, and building owners:**
 - provisions call for new buildings and retrofits to comply with codes to reduce emissions greatly
 - consumers save money when energy bills are lower
 - standards will only apply if they save building owners money, which will happen when loan rates are lower and investments in commercial real estate produce a higher return on investment for construction, purchase or retrofit.
- **We urge that SB 414 pass without amendments that weaken the provisions affecting buildings, which create a significant percentage of emissions.*****
- Restructuring our approach to climate justice by mandating that a percentage of all future climate spending must go to “disadvantaged” communities in terms of climate change, a term to be defined by experts and stakeholders.
 - Ensuring that labor voices are represented in our planning process, and that jobs benefit those who need them most.
 - Taking several immediate steps to reduce emissions, such as planting 5 million native trees by 2030, electrifying state vehicles, requiring several net neutral buildings and mandating energy efficiency increases.

Our faith as Quakers is entwined with our commitment to stewardship of the earth and care for our natural resources. We see how the destruction of these resources creates inequality, destroys community, affects health and well-being, leads to war and erodes our integrity. We are all responsible for the care of our planet Earth. We love this world as God’s gift to us all. As citizens of the United States and Maryland, we understand that we represent the wealthiest of the world’s population with an obligation and an opportunity to take action towards reducing the rate of destructive climate changes and at the same time invest in clean energy production, healthier communities, green infrastructure, and transportation that is not reliant on green-house-gas producing vehicles.

For many years scientists around the globe have been urging action on climate change with increasing alarm regarding the rate of change that is now at a crisis level. Here in Maryland we have a lot at stake, with nuisance flooding, high heat days and storm

surges already regular occurrences. We must move towards a policy of halting and preventing further harm.

We encourage a FAVORABLE report for this essential legislation.

Signed, Dona Sorce

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