



**Legislative Committee/ Environmental Issues Team
Columbia Democratic Club
Testimony on The Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021**

HB583/SB414

Bill Sponsors: Delegate Stein

Committee: Economic Matters Committee; Environment and Transportation Committee

Persons Submitting: Meagan Braganca, Legislative Chair Columbia Democratic Club

Position: Favorable

The Environmental Team of the Columbia Democratic Club urges you to support HB 583. The Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021 takes action against climate change by developing a plan to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions and implement several changes to improve transportation, sustainable buildings, forestation, environmental justice, and electrical generation. The Columbia Democratic Club's reach includes 500 Maryland residents. This group is dedicated to advancing policy and electing democratic candidates to office.

The steps that this bill calls for are critical to Maryland's future. HB 583 will help to reduce the impacts of this change and will save lives throughout the state. Creating strong goals for fighting climate change will allow Maryland to follow through with action. The objectives outlined in this bill will be difficult to reach, but they are achievable and necessary. Decreasing greenhouse gas emissions 60% by 2030 and net 0 emissions by 2045 will provide Maryland a chance for a future.

Environmental injustice is seen throughout the country and Maryland is no exception. Providing funds for combating climate change to the areas and communities that face the greatest impacts from this change will help to counter this inequality and increase the sustainability of Maryland as a whole. Increasing the energy efficiency of buildings and increasing solar production will benefit Maryland residents in several ways; these include reducing the effects of climate change, creating important local job opportunities, reaching the levels of solar outlined in Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard, and bettering air quality as Maryland transitions away from fossil fuels. In addition to these measures, the Columbia Democratic Club Environmental Team

supports the use of zero-emission vehicles. Using zero-emission vehicles allows for much needed improvement in public transportation and will reduce the carbon emissions associated with transportation. This proposal will also convene a new work group to include labor leaders, legislators, the Secretary of Labor's office, climate groups, and renewable energy companies to make policy recommendations on how to transition to a green jobs economy for the state. Lastly, planting five million native trees will help mitigate the carbon emissions that are produced within the state and will benefit local communities. Planting the trees in a timely manner, before 2030, will have a substantial impact to reduce climate change. The requirement that 500,000 of the trees be planted in redlined and economically disadvantaged areas will help to address environmental injustice.

Most members of the Columbia Democratic Club live in or near Ellicott City where increased storm intensity and flooding over the last few years has already taken lives. Please support HB583 to provide the possibility of a bright future for the residents of this state.

Please support The Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021, HB583/SB414, as written.

Thank you.

- CDC Legislative Committee Environmental Issues Team
- Jake Burdett, CDC President

Columbia Democratic Club