



Committee: Environment & Transportation
Testimony on: HB583 – “Climate Solutions Now”
Organization: Greenbelt Climate Action Network
Person Submitting: Lore Rosenthal, Program Coordinator
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 11, 2021

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of HB583.

Greenbelt Climate Action Network is a local organization, which educates residents about climate change, “systemic” solutions, how they can change their behaviors to be more sustainable, and take personal, local, systemic, and political action.

We urge you to vote favorably for HB583.

Globally, we are at a critical choice point that will determine the course of our future forever. Climate change is already here, and we are the last generation that will be able to course correct towards a livable future for all. However, we have the tools, resources and knowledge to take action right now.

This bill ensures Maryland will be part of 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
- 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

Greenbelt Climate Action Network feels strongly that we need this type of bill. It gives our state overall guidance and vision on how to move forward on a whole host of climate solutions.

International experts have urged action on climate with increasing fervor in recent years for good reason: the consequences of staying the course will be highly dangerous. Here in Maryland we have a lot at stake, with nuisance flooding, high heat days and storm surges already regular occurrences. We have an opportunity to listen to scientists now while signaling to the nation that Maryland is ready to embrace the new green economy. There is no more time to delay on meaningful climate action.

For all these reasons (listening to science, climate justice, labor participation, tree planting, electrifying vehicles, energy efficiency, and net zero buildings), **we urge you to vote favorably for HB583.**

Signed,
Lore Rosenthal, Program Coordinator
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