



HB583/SB414 – Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021

Testimony before House Environment & Transportation Committee

February 11, 2021

Position: Favorable

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee:

Indivisible Howard County asks for your strong support for HB583: The Climate Solutions Now Act. We are grateful for Del. Stein's leadership on this urgent and essential environmental legislation.

Maryland is one of the most impacted states by global warming. Rising sea levels are eroding 3000 miles of coastline and flooding over 265,000 acres of low-lying areas. In urban areas greenhouse gases are contributing to increasing rates of asthma, lung disease and cancer. The solutions are not only local but global. Never has international cooperation been more essential to address the climate crises. The Climate Solutions Now Act provides the framework for responsible global citizenship and the beginning of essential solutions to the Climate Crisis by:

- Reducing greenhouse gases 60% by 2030, 100% by 2045 in keeping with scientific evidence forming the bases for the Paris Climate Accords,
- Planting five million trees (10% in underserved communities) to combat greenhouse gases
- Establishing policy for increased energy efficiency in government buildings, transition to electric vehicles and requiring honest and transparent reporting by the State
- Requiring that the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities set standards identifying unfairly burdened communities, implementing forums with affected neighborhoods to identify needs and methods for funding.
- Helping to provide a just transition for fossil fuel workers that have fueled the Industrial Revolution of the past
- Providing funding sources from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund and the Bay Restoration Fund.

The climate crisis is measured in unquestionable scientific data. It is urgent that Maryland not delay in helping its citizens and the global community to find solutions.

Indivisible Howard County urges a favorable report on HB583.

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