

March 29, 2021

BILL: SB0414
TITLE: Climate Solutions Now of 2021
POSITION: SUPPORT
HEARING DATE: 3/31/2021
COMMITTEE: House Environment & Transportation Committee
SPONSOR: Senator Paul G. Pinsky

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

Climate XChange Maryland supports SB0414 - the **Climate Solutions Now of 2021** that requires the State to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 60% from 2006 levels by 2030; requiring the State to achieve net-zero statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 2045; requiring the Maryland Department of Labor to adopt regulations establishing certain energy conservation requirements for certain buildings by July 1, 2022; establishing a goal of planting and helping to maintain in the State 5,000,000 sustainable trees of species native to the State by the end of 2030; terminating certain provisions of the Act; etc.

The planet is facing a climate crisis and the response from Maryland and other wealthy nations must be immediate and ambitious. We must ensure that those communities disproportionately burdened by the cumulative impact of environmental pollution and other hazards not only be an integral part of shaping our solutions but are keep harmless in the process of remediating the environmental damage .

In addition to including the Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities, the bill establishes a 20-member commission, two of whom must be representatives of disproportionately affected communities. The Commission will develop specific criteria for identifying communities disproportionately affected by climate change, develop specific recommendations to address environmental justice concerns, reduce greenhouse gasses and co-pollutants, build climate equity and resilience within disproportionately affected communities, and set a percentage of state funds to be spent for the benefit of those disproportionately affected communities.

Another important aspect of the Climate Solutions Now bill is Job Creation and Worker Justice - the bill requires a new Work Group to convene with representatives from labor, legislators, the Secretary of Labor's office, climate groups, and renewable energy companies to make policy recommendations and develop strategies for how to best serve fossil fuel workers in Maryland and create transitions to jobs created by climate change.

For these reasons and more, Climate XChange urges a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB0414.

Respectfully submitted,

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