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MAYOR

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**HB 583**

February 11, 2021

**TO:** Members of the House Environment and Transportation  
**FROM:** Natasha Mehu, Director of Government Relations  
**RE:** HOUSE BILL 583 – CLIMATE SOLUTIONS NOW ACT OF 2021  
**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 583.

House Bill 583 is comprehensive bill that requires multiple actions aimed at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across many sources, including buildings, transportation, energy conservation, and solid waste. The Bill also establishes an Urban Tree Program to plant native species of trees in underserved areas.

Baltimore City, like many other Maryland jurisdictions, has developed its own Climate Action Plan (adopted in 2012) and set a GHG emissions reduction goal of 25 percent reduction by 2020 and 30 percent by 2025 (relative to 2007). While the rise of global emissions are a serious threat to all, adverse effects from a changing atmosphere can compound existing poverty in a city like Baltimore, where almost 35 percent of households earn less than \$25,000 annually. The City has also established a goal to increase its tree canopy coverage to 40 percent tree.

Other related goals are included in our 2019 Sustainability Plan, which articulates a new vision for a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable Baltimore. The plan uses an equity lens to improve planning, decision-making, and resource allocation leading to more racially equitable policies and programs.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on House Bill 583.