



February 9, 2021

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 0583 – Climate Solutions Now Act

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee,

Dr. Luke Goembel, scientist/beekeeper, supports HB0583, the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021.

Pollinators worldwide have suffered devastating losses over the past thirty years or so. There is no doubt that climate change has contributed to the runaway colony collapse beekeepers are experiencing. Scientists believe increasingly irregular flowering seasons and extreme winters interfere with pollinators' ability to survive by delaying the forage process, causing malnutrition and possible mortality. Ask any Maryland beekeeper: record-breaking numbers of spring rainy days, record breaking cold snaps that destroy buds on flowering trees and the extraordinary number of 'hot' days in winter that cause bees to break cluster and consume honey are wreaking havoc on our bees. Just googling "climate change and bees" yields a multitude of studies that give insight into the problem. "Climate change reduces the abundance and diversity of wild bees, study finds" [USDA funded study published in 2021], bumblebees are going extinct as temperatures and precipitation increase beyond what they can tolerate ["Discovering the limits of ecological resilience", published in Science, 2020], and many more reports indicate that climate change is a major factor in the decline of pollinators.

Why should we care about the decline in bees? The United States Department of Agriculture has determined that pollination is responsible for one-third of every bite we eat. I whole-heartedly support HB0583 as a step in the right direction to help undo the harm we do to pollinators and secure our food supply.

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Central Maryland Beekeepers Association (CMBA)

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