



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

February 1, 2021

TO: The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich
County Executive

RE: House Bill 503 – *Environment - Office on Climate Change - Establishment – Support*

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 503. This bill establishes the Office of Climate Change within the Governor's Office. The Office of Climate Change will help facilitate the implementation of the Commission on Climate Change's recommendations and ensure that each State agency consider and address climate change as it relates to agency operations. In addition, the Office of Climate change will assist local governments in the development of climate change plans.

Three years ago, the Montgomery County Council declared a climate emergency and called upon on all levels of government to initiate a massive global mobilization to restore a safe climate and build a sustainable economy by eliminating greenhouse gas emissions by 2035. Over the past year, the County convened several technical workgroups that consisted of 150 community members and ultimately produced 850 climate planning recommendations for the County to consider. The County is currently working with a consulting team to finalize its Climate Action and Resilience Plan, set to be released this Spring. House Bill 503 will assist Montgomery County and other local governments in attaining their Climate Action goals.

For the aforementioned reasons, I support House Bill 503 and respectfully request a favorable Committee report.

cc: Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee