



TESTIMONY TO HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

HB 583 – Climate Solutions Now Act

POSITION: SUPPORT

BY: Lois Hybl & Richard Willson, Co-Presidents

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The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influence public policy through education and advocacy. Action on climate change is based on the League's position to support comprehensive legislation to control climate change, and support for predominant reliance on renewable resources. We are at a critical point that will determine the course of our future forever.

This bill ensures Maryland will be part of the new green future by

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- Ensuring Maryland is in line with the current climate science by committing us to a 60% reduction in carbon emissions below 2006 levels by 2030 and to reaching net zero emissions by 2045
 - Restructuring our approach to climate justice by mandating that a percentage of all future climate spending must go to "disadvantaged" communities in terms of climate change, a term to be defined by experts and stakeholders
 - Ensuring that labor voices are represented in our planning process, and that jobs benefit those who need them most
 - Taking several immediate steps to reduce emissions, such as planting 5 million native trees by 2030, electrifying state vehicles, requiring several net neutral buildings and mandating energy efficiency increases

In Maryland we have a lot at stake, with nuisance flooding, high heat days and storm surges already regular occurrences. There is no more time to delay on meaningful climate action.

The League of Women Voters Maryland encourages a FAVORABLE report for this essential legislation.