



## HB583 CLIMATE SOLUTIONS NOW ACT OF 2021

February 11, 2021

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

### OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB583 Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021**. This bill makes broad changes to the State's approach to reducing statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and addressing climate change. Among other things, the bill 1) increases the statewide GHG emissions reduction requirement, from 40% from 2006 levels by 2030 to 60% from 2006 levels by 2030, and requires the State to achieve net-zero statewide GHG emissions by 2045; 2) establishes new commissions and working groups; 3) requires the Maryland Department of Labor to adopt new energy conservation requirements for buildings and expands and alters the applicability of "high-performance building" standards; 4) establishes State tree-planting goals; 5) increases and extends energy efficiency and conservation program requirements administered by the Public Service Commission; and 6) establishes requirements for the purchase of zero-emission vehicles in the State fleet.

AACPS opposes unfunded mandates. This legislation would require AACPS and other local school systems to expend significantly more on public school construction programs in the years 2022 through 2045. Given the well documented backlog of new school construction, renovation, replacement, expansion, and maintenance projects, local school systems and local units of county governments should not be forced to pay more for each project than would otherwise be required under the applicable State and local codes. This legislation could easily add 10% or more to the initial construction costs of a public school. For AACPS, that could add an additional \$10-\$20 million to our CIP request along with the same commensurate burden on the Anne Arundel County Government.

To the extent that this legislation requires greater up-front CIP expenditures per school, our ability to get to and properly address the ever-growing backlog of school construction projects will be delayed even further, thus hindering student access to educational suitability and equity.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB583.