



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

February 9, 2021

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

FROM: Marc Elrich
County Executive

RE: HB 583 – *Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021* – Support

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 583. This bill requires the State to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 60% from 2006 levels by 2030 and achieve net-zero GHG by 2045. The bill establishes a Net-Zero School Loan Fund which would assist in the construction of schools that meet net-zero energy requirements and establishes a Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities focused on addressing GHG emission in disproportionately affected communities. In addition, the bill establishes a workgroup to address workers affected by the downsizing of the fossil fuels industry, establishes energy conservation requirements for new buildings, and establishes a goal of planting and helping maintain in the State 5,000,000 sustainable trees by 2030.

In 2017, the Montgomery County Council declared a climate emergency calling on all levels of government to “initiate a massive global mobilization to restore a safe climate and build a sustainable economy” and “transform the climate by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2027 and reaching 100% elimination by 2035 and initiate large-scale efforts to remove excess carbon from the atmosphere.” The provisions in this bill will assist the County as it seeks to achieve its target of eliminating greenhouse gas emissions entirely.

For the aforementioned reasons, I support House Bill 583 and respectfully request a favorable report.

cc: Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee