

Committees: Environment and Transportation
Testimony on: SB414 Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021
Submitted by: Donald M. Goldberg, Executive Director
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: March 31, 2021

CLPP strongly supports SB414, the Climate Solutions Now Act (CSNA) of 2021.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 1.5°C [report](#) suggests that global net anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have to decline about 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 and reach net-zero by 2050 to achieve a 1.5°C target. Developed countries will have to achieve more aggressive emission reductions. As the wealthiest state in the wealthiest country in the world, Maryland should be a leader in this regard. The CSNA's revision to Maryland's GHG target from 40% by 2030 to 60% by 2030 – and net-zero by 2045 – represents such a leadership position that is consistent with the IPCC recommendations.

There are numerous other praiseworthy elements of the CSNA as well, including the environmental justice commission and the worker justice work group.

While CLPP strongly supports the bill, We would like to see the schools and buildings requirements strengthened. Based on analyses by [NREL](#) and others, as well as conversations that we have had with various sources, including builders themselves, it is clear that in many, if not all cases, new net-zero buildings can be built at no additional cost. Moreover, it is now possible for up to 90% of existing buildings to be retrofitted to achieve substantial energy savings and even achieve net-zero energy. One company we spoke with will take over the building's energy bills and then bill the owner at a guaranteed lower cost. They claim they can do this with 70-90% of existing buildings, the older the better.

While CLPP believes the building requirements could be strengthened, the bill as currently written would be a big step in the right direction and would make Maryland a leading state in solving the climate crisis.

CLPP urges a favorable vote for HB414.