



## **CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

**HB 277 / SB 249  
Support**

**House Environment & Transportation  
House Economic Matters  
Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs**

**March 6, 2019**

**HB 277 / SB 249 - Regional Initiative to Limit or Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Transportation Sector - Authorization (Regional Transportation and Climate Protection Act of 2019)**

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The City of Takoma Park supports, and urges favorable consideration of this bill, which would authorize the Governor to participate in regional efforts to manage greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector.

Recent reports from the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the National Climate Assessment make clear that our climate is dramatically and rapidly changing, with devastating consequences, and that greenhouse gas emissions must be dramatically reduced in the very short term to address these consequences.

Maryland is highly vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change. We have already begun to witness these, including more severe and frequent storms, greater rainfall, increased flooding, more frequent and extreme heat waves, sea level rise along its extensive coasts, and other detrimental impacts.

Regional cooperation on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in transportation is a critical way to mitigate the effects of climate change. One community, and one state, cannot do this alone. We need many tools to address this pressing issue.

This bill alone is not sufficient action for the state of MD, and cannot substitute for other more aggressive state actions, but provides another valuable tool.

Takoma Park has been a leader among Maryland communities in responding to the challenges of climate change and in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through our many local policies and actions. Our City is publicly committed to action on climate change through the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, the Paris Climate Agreement and the Sierra Club 100% renewable energy pledge. To truly fulfill these commitments, and move our community toward dramatically reduced GHG emissions, we need tools such as community choice aggregation.

In sum, the City of Takoma Park supports HB 277/SB 249, and encourages a favorable vote.