



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

SB 926 Support

Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 2020

SB 926 Climate Solutions Act of 2020 – Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act

City Contact: Cindy Dyballa, Ward 2 City Council Member

CindyD@takomaparkmd.gov

The City of Takoma Park supports the goals and intent of Senate Bill 926, and urges favorable consideration.

This bill would adjust the state's overall GHG emissions reduction goal from 40% to 60 % by 2030, with a goal of net zero GHG emissions by 2045. Provisions address a wide range of state actions to improve energy efficiency, promote renewable energy, increase carbon sequestration through tree plantings, and address climate justice and job impacts.

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. To do this, all levels of government must step up our efforts, and the state of Maryland must take a leadership role.

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. Again, we must increase and speed up efforts on the part of all levels of government, and the state of Maryland must lead by example.

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. Last year the City declared a climate emergency and made a commitment to move toward net zero GHG emissions by 2035. To truly fulfill these commitments, and move our community toward dramatically reduced GHG emissions, we need strong state leadership and action.

In sum, the City of Takoma Park supports the goals and intent of this bill, and encourages a favorable vote.