



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

**SB 528
Support**

Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

February 15, 2022

SB 528 Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022

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The City of Takoma Park supports the goals and intent of Senate Bill 528, and urges favorable consideration.

This bill would accelerate the state's overall greenhouse gas (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 policies and actions to meet these goals: establish statewide building performance standards, electrify the state vehicle fleet, invest in climate pollution reduction in environmental justice communities, and address job impacts, among other provisions. These efforts, and more, are urgently needed statewide.

Throughout Maryland, we have seen that our climate statewide is dramatically and rapidly changing with devastating local consequences, and that we must dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the short term to address this. We must accelerate and expand efforts on the part of all levels of government, and the state of Maryland must take an aggressive leadership role and lead by example. Impacts statewide include more severe and frequent storms, greater rainfall, increased flooding, more frequent and extreme heat waves, sea level rise along our extensive coasts, and more. These impacts have significant economic consequences for us all. One major impact in Takoma Park is more stormwater runoff more often, challenging the capacity of our older infrastructure. There's no time to waste.

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. But to truly fulfill our City's commitments, and dramatically reduce our GHG emissions, we need strong state leadership and action to support us.

In 2019 the City declared a climate emergency and set a goal of net zero GHG emissions by 2035. In 2020 the City adopted a Climate Emergency Response Framework to move aggressively to implement that goal. It focuses on buildings and transportation, the two areas of greatest GHG emissions in our community, and two major focus areas of this bill. 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. Our City cannot reduce GHG emissions alone. Strong statewide programs and funding for climate solutions now is critical.

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