



Maryland League of Conservation Voters' Public Sign On Response to Maryland's Climate Pathway

The state of Maryland is a recognized national leader in our efforts to address the climate crisis. The Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 set targets to reduce emissions 60% by 2031 and be net zero by 2045. Maryland's Climate Pathway report illustrates the significant positive impact of reaching these targets, with a projected \$296-667 million in additional health benefits in 2031 compared to current policies. I commend the Maryland Department of the Environment for the efforts they have made so far to invest in the solutions that support these targets, and for their continued engagement in this work.

As MDE takes the next step and writes the climate plan for the state, the undersigned urge the following:

Clean Energy

- Prioritize the development of wind and solar energy to reach 100% clean energy generation by 2035. Namely, the state should provide leadership on solar siting and permitting decisions and ensure full implementation of the POWER Act.
- Invest in interconnection and transmission enhancements. The Pathway report is almost silent on these critical topics for clean energy deployment.
- Reform the state's EmPOWER program to align it with greenhouse gas emission reduction goals and increase access to energy efficiency initiatives to reduce electricity demand.
- Support a repeal of the provisions in the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act (GGRA) of 2009 that exempt the manufacturing sector from greenhouse gas emissions reduction requirements.

Clean Transportation

- Ensure funding for electric school bus procurement, and more participation in the electric school bus pilot program under the Climate Solutions Now Act.
- Execute swift implementation and oversight of the Clean Trucks Act of 2023 (Advanced Clean Trucks Rule) and the Advanced Clean Cars II regulation

30 West Street, Suite C
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-280-9855
www.mdlc.org



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VOTERS**



Executive Action

- Prioritize the hiring of a Chief Sustainability Officer for the state to coordinate these efforts.
- Implement more robust efforts to apply for federal funding through the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act.

Environmental Justice

- Build equity and Justice 40 into the lens through which all climate policies are developed. The Pathway report explains the positive impacts of reducing emissions, but does not build equity into the model itself, as MDE will have to do when actually developing policies.

Sincerely,

Maryland Residents

First Name	Last Name	County	Email address
Susan	Levine	Montgomery	
Janie	Mckay	Montgomery	rsjemckay@aol.com
Tammy	Haller	Frederick	joeytcat@gmail.com
Maureen	Wheeler	Montgomery	
Walter	Barnes	Harford	frosanghap@comcast.net
Joseph	Moss	Anne Arundel	joecarves@comcast.net
Nora	Terres	Anne Arundel	nwterres@gmail.com
Bethany	Gregg	Baltimore city	bethany.gregg@gmail.com
B.	Gottlieb	Montgomery	barbgottliebrobles@gmail.com
Ruth	Mundell	Prince George's	
Beth	Luers	Garrett	beth.luers@gmail.com
Sherry	Russell	St. Mary's	sherrymaryland@hotmail.com
Christina	Criss	Harford	chriscriss12@gmail.com
Borja	Rodriguez		borjardep@gmail.com
Shirley	Fuller	Anne Arundel	sffuller@mac.com
Kristyn	Kuhn Eckel	Anne Arundel	back2kk2@gmail.com
Marilyn	Thomas	Prince George's	mariynthomas854@gmail.com
Edith	Patterson	Charles	Edith.Patterson@house.state.md.us



Evelyn	Jacob	Montgomery	evelynjacob@comcast.net
Kathryn	Tillman	Howard	kbtilman@gmail.com
Vontasha	Simms	Charles	vontashasimms@gmail.com
Barbara	Pollard	Prince George's	1Aloveyousomuch@gmail.com
Anne	Manuel	Montgomery	
Irma	Bensingher	Howard	ibensingher@comcast.net
William	Willingham	Baltimore city	
Linda	Just	Cecil	ljustrn@gmail.com
Deborah	Stephenson	Frederick	
sheldon	fishman	Montgomery	sheldonfishman@gmail.com
William	Breakey	Baltimore	wrbreakey@gmail.com
Celeste	Dixon	Frederick	cmeta49@gmail.com
Virginia	Brown-Nolan	Montgomery	vbnolan48@yHOO.COM
Melissa Lopez	Lopez	Baltimore	lilysore86@gmail.com
Sally	Gagne	Montgomery	
Sara	Via	Howard	
Fred	Scherlinder Dobb	Montgomery	
Avram	Reisner	Baltimore	
Sandy	Huffer	Anne Arundel	sandyhuffer308@gmail.com
Peggy	Meyer	Baltimore city	pa.meyer@comcast.net
Joseph	D'Adamo Jr	Baltimore	jdlax52@gmail.com
Diana	Weatherby	Prince George's	diana.weatherby@aol.com
Paul	Daisey	Montgomery	pdaisey1331@gmail.com
Barbara	Wilson	Montgomery	barbara.wilson.105@gmail.com
Maryrose	Wilson	Frederick	mimilagro@yahoo.com
William	Yates	Anne Arundel	
Christa	Boroskin	Montgomery	cbbacesj@outlook.com
Mary Catherine	Bunting	Baltimore	marycathybunting@comcast.net
Mike	Koob	Frederick	
Ken	Clark	Howard	kenclark7@live.com
Kelley	Dempsey		
Ralph	Heimlich	Howard	



Tom	Ackerman	Anne Arundel	tackerman@cbf.org
Kathy	Gross	Baltimore	haitikathy@gmail.com
Stanley	Bowser	Washington	stanc62@netzero.net
David	Anderson	Prince George's	
Dori	Grasso	Baltimore	
Elizabeth	Baker	Baltimore city	libby.baker1@gmail.com
Charles	MacFarland	Frederick	pharlane@comcast.net
M	Langelan	Montgomery	mjlangelan@gmail.com
Mark	Wilson	Dorchester	
Katherine	White	Montgomery	
Bridget	Pieroni	Montgomery	bridgetmpieroni@gmail.com
Sara	Ward	Baltimore city	sallijward@aol.com
Faith	Butler	Montgomery	faithbutler42@gmail.com
Angie	Holmes	Prince George's	angieholmes228@gmail.com
Germano	Brandes	Baltimore city	germanobrandes@gmail.com
barbara	wuest	Baltimore city	pilgrim5508@aol.com
Amanda	Dewey	Prince George's	amanda.m.milster@vanderbilt.edu
Hilde	Dachtera	Montgomery	
Diane	Gutterman	Baltimore	dfg4@cornell.edu
Valerie	Brown	Anne Arundel	valerie@partokisses.net
Matthew	Humphrey	Baltimore city	
Jack	Arnold	Baltimore city	
Deborah	Horowitz	Howard	debbie.deb905@gmail.com
catherine	lowry	Montgomery	
Ilana	Krug	Baltimore	griffinick@aol.com
Edmund	Weisberg	Baltimore city	edmundweisberg@yahoo.com
Regina	Rose	Harford	rgrose513@verizon.net
Susan	Dickerson	Prince George's	
Carolyn	Johnson	Prince George's	
Cathie	Nelsen	Montgomery	
Judith	Fulton	Baltimore	jfulton@eagerstreet.com



Tracey	katsouros	Charles	traceycsmallwood@gmail.com
Patti	Sachs	Anne Arundel	patti.sachs@verizon.net
Lisa	Boynton	Anne Arundel	lisaboynton13@gmail.com
Phyllis	Gaiti	Talbot	prgaiti@gmail.com
JOANNA	KIMURA	Montgomery	joannakimura2602@yahoo.com
Kathy	Cooper	Baltimore	coopbaby9@yahoo.com
John	Turgeon	Anne Arundel	greenwood19633@gmail.com
John	Teasdale	Prince George's	john.teasdale2@verizon.net
Leanah	Bouvier	Queen Anne's	
Peggy	Alpert	Montgomery	mtngrma2004@yahoo.com
CHERYL	FAHLMAN	Montgomery	
Douglas	Sedon	Frederick	
joanne	gregory	Baltimore	joanngregg@verizon.net
Thomas	Zeller	Prince George's	tom_g_zeller@yahoo.com
James	Beeler li	Washington	fanfareman@hotmail.com
Drew	Brown	Baltimore city	
Edward	Bielaus	Montgomery	ljbar@smn.com
Ermon	Vandy	Montgomery	
David	Tower	Anne Arundel	dhtower@comcast.net
Tom	Taylor	Prince George's	tomtaylor0401@gmail.com
Greg	DeCowsky	Kent	greg.decowsky@me.com
Richard	Allen	Montgomery	rwalen4equity@comcast.net
Charmaine	Lee	Prince George's	leechj03@yahoo.com
Sima	Bakalian	Montgomery	a_bakalian@msn.com
Adam	Powers	Montgomery	apowersb@gmail.com
Steve	Draper	Garrett	
Sarah	Peters	Montgomery	
Dotty	Dewell	Baltimore	dottydewell@gmail.com
Christine	Grewell	Montgomery	cillygoose@ail.com
Annabel	Leshner	Talbot	annabel@stlanticbb.net
Melanie	Odette	Wicomico	melanie_odette@yahoo.com
Pr Cristoforo	Padula	Washington	lionofjudah1809@aol.com



Donald	Schwartz	Baltimore	dschwartz@ccbcmd.edu
Karen	Aiken	Baltimore	
Becky	Archer	Anne Arundel	
Alan	Wojtalik	Baltimore	
Joy	Kroeger-Mappes	Allegany	jkroeger@frostburg.edue
Catherine	Turner	Prince George's	
Sandra	Stephon	Prince George's	
Clifford	Barr	Frederick	clavbarr@gmail.com
Ron	Shansby	Montgomery	bus.937jrj@yahoo.com
Maureen	Schriber	Calvert	mschriber@smcni.org
Franklin	Gould	Baltimore	franklin.d.gould@gmail.com
Wayne	Straight	Howard	woichi01@comcast.net
Mary	Rogers	Howard	maryrogers1107@gmail.com
Patricia	Burton	Montgomery	kotipat@msn.com
Robert	Merikangas	Prince George's	robertmerikangas@gmail.com
Christine	Powell	Montgomery	
Nikki	Wojtalik	Baltimore	
Leo	Shapiro	Prince George's	
Ron	Verdonk	Prince George's	
Donald	Nelson	Baltimore	danelson48@yahoo.com
Amanda	Griffin	Carroll	amastro1002@gmail.com
Vicky	Stata Bauer	Carroll	viclsb@aol.com
VICTORIA	CROSS	Montgomery	victoriaac1978@gmail.com
Elise	Riley	Montgomery	Elise.c.riley@gmail.com
Cynthia	Campanale	Baltimore city	cynthiacampanale@yahoo.com
Jennie	Gosche	Montgomery	polarbearpals@gmail.com
Tyler	Arnold	Harford	tyarnold01@yahoo.com
Cathy	Barton	Anne Arundel	
Donald	Watson	Frederick	
Lois	Hybl	Baltimore city	
Ralph	Esheman	Calvert	



Lawrence	Frey	Anne Arundel	lpfrey1@gmail.com
Agnieszka	Beletsky	Dorchester	aggiebele@hotmail.com
Beth	Hook	Montgomery	bethhook@gmail.com
Johanna	Wermers	Montgomery	johannawermers@gmail.com
Beth	Renwick	Baltimore city	Bethenwick@aol.com
Jennifer	Cox	Montgomery	jmcguire319@gmail.com
Susan T	Armiget	Baltimore	starmiger@gmail.com
David	Band	Montgomery	dbpectman@aol.com
Sandy	Bell	Calvert	feministoma@aol.com
Maria	Szokolai	Montgomery	mnfarkas@yahoo.com
Jon	McBride	Montgomery	jonmcbride@aol.com
Stuart	Rehr	Baltimore city	srgva@hotmail.com
Sherie	Koob	Frederick	
Theresa	Lynch	Talbot	lov2fly@icloud.com
Robin	Allen	Baltimore	
Elizabeth	Bryson	Baltimore	elizabethbrysonmusic@gmail.com
Pat	Ratkowski	Montgomery	
Renee	Burgan	Washington	ronie.burgan@maryland.gov
Jane	Simpson	Montgomery	jsimpson@seznam.cz
Charlett	Bundy	Anne Arundel	
Cynthia	Arnold	Carroll	
CHRIS	SEYMOUR	Worcester	christopher_seymour@yahoo.com
Kim	Lungociu	Anne Arundel	thsourceis@gmail.com
Linda	Bystrak	Wicomico	linda@bystrak.com
Diane	Kupelian	Montgomery	dianekupelian@gmail.com
Janet	Gingold	Prince George's	janet.gingold@mdsierra.org
Victor	Wittmann	Baltimore	v1wittmann@comcast.net
Corrine	Mohnasky	Anne Arundel	
Kurt	Schwarz	Howard	krschwa1@verizon.net
Kathleen	Sengstock	Montgomery	kathleen.sengstock@outlook.com
Ruth	White	Howard	rkwhite@comcast.net
Natasha	Finnegan	Wicomico	tashfinn@gmail.com
Alphonso	Manning	Baltimore	al_manning23666@yahoo.com



Jill	Brantley	Montgomery	niebran@gwu.edu
Mark	Catlin	Howard	mdcatlin@verizon.net
Robert	Sondheimer	Charles	rsondbryans@verizon.net
Leslie	Wharton	Montgomery	lesliew@eldersclimateaction.org
Laura	Wood		laurabwood@mdlcv.org
Marea	Grant	Montgomery	marea.hatzios@gmail.com
Ramon	Palencia-Calvo	Anne Arundel	rpalenciocalvo@gmail.com
Tilly	Coyle	Anne Arundel	tilly.coyle@annapolisgreen.com
Albert	Garcia-Romeu	Baltimore city	
Patricia	Fouse	Harford	
Rebecca	Rehr	Montgomery	rrehrr@mdlcv.org
Melanie	Kincaid	Anne Arundel	melanie.a.kincaid@gmail.com
Molly	Hauck	Montgomery	mollyphauck@gmail.com
Linda	Simonson		ljsimonson11@gmail.com
Marianne	Comfort	Montgomery	mcomfort@sistersofmercy.org
Jodi	Rose	Montgomery	jodijrose@gmail.com
William	Holland	Montgomery	bill_holland@lcv.org
Lisa	Ausherman	Anne Arundel	lisa@amazingspacedesign.net
Surili	Patel	Montgomery	spatel@metgroup.com
Tom	Dennis	Talbot	tomjdennis@gmail.com
Jean	Kaufman	Montgomery	
Andrew	Hinz	Baltimore city	ahinz61@outlook.com
David	Steigerwald	Montgomery	steigdg1@skypond.us
Deanna	Harkins	Harford	deanna.harkins@gmail.com
kenneth	mittchell	Anne Arundel	
Ned Tillman	Tillman	Howard	
Lydia	LaGue	Frederick	lydiaglague@gmail.com
Mary	Michael	Frederick	
Patrick	Rockhill	Anne Arundel	
Maria	Grande	Baltimore	
Patricia A	Beach	Frederick	thesethreeare1@gmail.com
Noreen	Hyre	Prince George's	nhyre@verizon.net
Elaine	Phillips	Anne Arundel	dogsinthetrash@yahoo.com



Ryan	James	Worcester	ryan@motherscantina.com
Marsha	McLaughlin	Baltimore	
Liz	Feighner	Howard	
Gail	McGinnis	Prince George's	
Holly	Utz	Baltimore	
Carolyn	Carter	Somerset	cartermd3@aol.com
Jodi	Weiskott-Wick	Montgomery	jodi20f@gmail.com
Nancy	England	Washington	nalgoeng@aol.com
Ousmane	Mbaye	Baltimore	ousmanmbaye95@gmail.com
Tam	Bouret	Baltimore city	tambouret17@gmail.com
Kevin	Walsh	Montgomery	walshkevink@yahoo.com
Jordan	Mansour		mrjwoody@hotmail.com
Camille	Gelardo	Montgomery	camillecl@aol.com
Kym	Taylor	Prince George's	ctcn@verizon.net
Harry	Schaefer	Montgomery	harry_schaefer@yahoo.com
Daniel	Hockensmith	Montgomery	hockensmithawin@gmail.com
Jen	Gaegler	Montgomery	
PATRICIA	DUNBAR	Prince George's	patdunbar1203@verizon.net
Catherine	Buderwitz	Baltimore	cbuderwitz@gmail.com
Katura	Weatherspoon	Howard	kweathe@hotmail.com
Paul	Eisenberg	Baltimore city	eisenber@indiana.edu
Robin	windsor	Anne Arundel	Robinmwindsor@gmail.com
Samantha	Suit	Anne Arundel	ssuit@printostat.com
Donna	Myers	Howard	donna.myers@longandfoster.com
Jason	Aul	St. Mary's	jasonaul@gmail.com
Patrick	Hosty		patrick.hosty@constellation.com
debra	McGhee	Anne Arundel	debra.e.mcghee@gmail.com
Robyn	Gilden		rgilden@umaryland.edu
RoxAnna	Anthony	Baltimore	r.winkesanthony@verizon.net
Dana	Carson	Anne Arundel	dana@thecarsonfamily.org
Hope	Clark	Kent	hclark@kentgov.org
Debra	McGhee	Anne Arundel	govgirl410@icloud.com



Lari	Taylor	Worcester	
George and Frances	Alderson	Baltimore	
Karen	Orner	Baltimore	korner365@yahoo.com
Sharon	Miller	Harford	mainelighthouse22@yahoo.com
Richard	Balaban		rcbalaban103@gmail.com
Susan	Milner	Montgomery	susanreynolds@hotmail.com
Lara	Hause	Prince George's	lara034@gmail.com
Clifford	Laufer	Montgomery	claufer@mindspring.com
Jakita	Edwards	Baltimore city	Chinyelle@hotmail.com
Erin	Healy		bonsoleil@gmail.com
Victor	mattison	Anne Arundel	wheels3275@gmail.com
Stephanie	Vasquez	Prince George's	alejandra.steph@gmail.com
Kenya	Rice		kenyadrice@gmail.com
Bernard	Nebel	Baltimore	bnebel303@gmail.com
JC	Kangu		jckang2000@gmail.com
Christopher	DeManss	Anne Arundel	cdemanss@aacps.org
Christine	Nanna-Lieb	Worcester	acorn428@comcast.net
Matthew	Vogt	Montgomery	matt_vogt@hotmail.com
Stacey	Ezersky	Baltimore	srsell38@yahoo.com
Go	To	Washington	whatajoke@gmail.com
Anne	Libis	Carroll	libisanne@gmail.com

Non-Maryland Residents

First Name	Last Name	County	Email address
James	Mulcare	Asotin	JSMulcare52@gmail.com
Jude	Ruskay	New Castle	
Laurie C	Wright	Fulton	
Joanna	Zacari	Mineral	joanna_zacari@yahoo.com
Lacey	Levitt	San Diego	
Michael	Pan	Alexandria (City)	tigerwoodspan@gmail.com
Rosemaria	Strates Root	Adams	rosemariaroot@gmail.com



Steven	Vogel	Falls Church (City)	steven.j.vogel@earthlink.net
Chinofsky	Laura	Bucks	lzchin@hotmail.com

Additional Comments:

As a concerned citizen, fully aware of the complexities of stopping global warming, I want to do all I can to assist in the efforts.

- Joseph Moss, Anne Arundel County

As a lifelong Maryland resident, I am proud of our state's proactive work to address climate change.

- Nora Terres, Anne Arundel County

As a mother of 3, I care deeply about protecting our climate. We must act now!

- Bethany Gregg, Baltimore City

As a proud Marylander, I strongly support Maryland's leadership on climate change and energy issues. Let's keep it up. Please incorporate the elements listed above in our state climate plan.

- B. Gottlieb, Montgomery County

As someone who has worked for green businesses for the last 20 years, I have seen over and over that investing in climate solutions is also an excellent investment in our state's economy and standard of living.

- Ruth Mundell, Prince George's County

Every day I become more concerned and upset about the effects of climate change -- locally, nationally, and globally. I endorse the Maryland League of Conservation Voters priorities listed below, and I fervently urge everyone in Maryland state government to do the most possible to achieve these goals. Where there's a will, there's a way!

- Evelyn Jacob, Montgomery County

Feedback/Questions: 1) Are there plans to update the electric grid? 2) We hear frequent stories about how EV charging stations are not maintained and there are too many broken charging stations. Is there a focus on maintenance of charging stations? 3) are we missing the low hanging fruit by not doing more about personal consumption of energy and the role each of us can play in using less. 4) what week can we do to encourage homeowners to reduce the amount of lawn they have? In addition to being a great place to have natural meadows and trees, many of these lawns are maintained with two cycle gas engines and pesticides and herbicides, which are all detrimental to the climate and environment.

- Kathryn Tillman, Howard County

I am a mother deeply concerned about the climate we are leaving behind for our children.

- Anne Manuel, Montgomery County



I am a retired primary care physician, having served in that role for 30 years. During my time in clinical practice, I witnessed the health impact of poor air quality on conditions especially heart and lung diseases. In addition, as a parent (and hopefully a grandparent someday) every day I think about the importance of a healthy environment for my children, and my children's children. I wholeheartedly support Maryland League of Conservation's recommendations.

- Irma Bensinger, Howard County

I am so excited, proud, and glad that MDE is working towards improving our environment. I just hope we are able to implement the many changes we need to address the climate situation we are currently in. We need more commitment to renewable energy. Why isn't it mandated that new construction, homes, offices, etc. doesn't incorporate solar or other renewable energy into the plans? Why isn't more public transportation mandated to use electric vehicles? Baltimore City buses are a prime example of vehicles that should be electric instead of ICE. There should be more and better mass transit options to help reduce the amount of commuters on the road. I could go on for a very long time, but I just don't have the time for that. Thank you for your dedicated work for the environment!

- William Willingham, Baltimore City

I believe in finding new energy sources, eg. wind power, but it needs to be thoroughly researched and evaluated. Migratory birds have been known to die in poorly, irresponsibly placed wind turbines. Light from towers and other structures are also a problem. The safety of wildlife should always be included in any plans. I also find it disturbing when truck drivers and other vehicles spew hazardous, toxic diesel fumes into the air, often intentionally. I drive a Prius and often feel they do this deliberately. There should be regulations on the manufacture of vehicles to prevent the sale of vehicles that are able to do this and safer gas emissions. I feel actions are urgent, considering the dire consequences of global warming.

- Linda Just, Cecil County

I believe that 2031 is too little, too late. Consider the environmental degradation that we currently have. Imagine how bad the weather patterns 5 years from now.

- Deborah Stephenson, Frederick County

I commend the Maryland Department of the Environment for the efforts they have made so far to invest in the solutions that support these targets, and for their continued engagement in this work.

Recommendation: Ban synthetic turf sports fields that are a significant point source for GHG and cannot be recycled whereas the better alternative, grass sports fields, are net carbon sinks. Source reduction is one of the more potent actions for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Each synthetic turf sports field consists of a 40,000 pound petroleum based rug and 400,000 pounds of inorganic infill. Each synthetic turf field must be removed and disposed of after about 8 years, is too toxic for municipal landfills, and cannot be burned in trash incinerators. A state-of-the-art grass sports field has similar playability, is a net carbon sink, is safer, and has lower costs. Recommendation 2: Mitigate climate damage done using State funds by removing greenhouse point sources - synthetic turf fields - that were funded with State funds and replacing them with state of the art grass fields that net carbon sinks. Maryland State funds, including Program Open Space funds, have been used create petroleum based synthetic turf playing fields, often ripping out existing living grass playing fields. The costs of such a mitigation effort would be offset by significant - but hard to measure - cost avoidance such as cost of clean up of used synturfs that have been dumped, costs of treating toxic runoff from active and dumped synturfs, liability payments avoided from injuries and illnesses caused by playing on a synturfs (eg \$3.7



million paid to Univ of Md football player who died of heat exposure on a football field with a surface temperature of about 130 degrees).

- Sheldon Fishman, Montgomery County

I enthusiastically endorse the position of the Maryland League of Conservation Voters in advocating for acceptance and implementation of the Climate Pathway report.

- William Breakey, Baltimore

I feel that it's terribly important, that our seventh generation, will not be born into a world that the two previous generations' misuse and lack of respect for recognizing the need for balance in our fuel on this planet, since and because we have the technology to do better. That's justice for all.

- Celeste Dixon, Frederick County

I have had solar panels for 10 years and a Camry Hybrid/ Hybrid xle since 2009. I recycle paper, glass bottles, foil, plastic and boxes. I am pleased to read that the State of Maryland is becoming more involved in caring for our climate.

- Virginia Brown-Nolan, Montgomery County

I live many months of the summer on the eastern shore of MD along the Chesapeake Bay, and I am a chemical engineer with a good understanding of the effect of CO2 on the atmosphere. The aggressive CO 2 reduction target by MD shows the states strong leadership position in helping the country move to next generation energy solutions.

- Jude Ruskay, New Castle

I never knew how important the state of Maryland required an Clean Energy and with these environmental justice in place can reassure a safe and healthy future ahead of us!

- Melissa Lopez, Baltimore

I STRONGLY agree with everything the Maryland League of Conservation Voters advocates above.

- Sally Gagne, Montgomery County

I strongly support the recommendations from Maryland's League of Conservation Voters as outlined below. This is our chance for Maryland to solidify its leadership position among states in adopting climate solutions.

- Sara Via, Howard County

I write as a clergyperson in Montgomery County, and non-profit leader; but first and foremost as a dad, a concerned citizen, and a values-driven Marylander who is especially concerned for 'the least among us,' as well as for those who come after us. Nothing is state government more important -- nothing! -- than doing all that we can to protect our precious fragile environment, and all who live within it. Therefore I join with the League of Conservation Voters in appreciating your work to date in the Climate Pathway report, and in imploring you to push for the most just, most ambitious, greenest possible paths moving forward. As MDE takes the next step and writes the climate plan for the state, I join with thousands of fellow Marylanders in urging the above. Thank you for your leadership to date -- and thank you in advance for pushing our state in yet more ambitious ways toward sustainability and justice.

- Fred Scherlinder Dobb, Montgomery County



It is a simple proposition -- we should each act in a way that creates effects that are compatible with the permanence of life. I support MDLCV and the state of MD in efforts toward that goal.

- Avram Reisner, Baltimore

It is an important time for MD to be a leader to transform the energy platform in a thoughtful manner that protects our natural resources, focuses on consumption and reduces the risk of more intense climate change due to our previous in action. We can no longer wait!!

- Sandy Huffer, Anne Arundel County

It is critical that we act to save our children from illness and protect our planet.

- Peggy Meyer, Baltimore City

It is vital to act now. Maryland must be in the forefront of this fight.

- Joseph D'Adamo, Jr. Baltimore

Let Maryland be a Leader in Climate Action!!

- Barbara Wilson, Montgomery County

Let's be leaders!

- Mayrose Wilson, Frederick County

Let's continue to move ahead for the health and benefit of future generations.

- William Leonard, Anne Arundel County

Let's continue to set an example for the rest of the country. Let's continue to be cutting edge. Let's continue to move us all together forward.

- Christa Boroskin, Montgomery County

Maryland is a recognized national leader in our efforts to address the climate crisis. The Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 set targets to reduce emissions 60% by 2031 and be net zero by 2045. Maryland's Climate Pathway report illustrates the significant positive impact of reaching these targets. I commend MDE for the efforts you have made so far to invest in the solutions that support these targets, and for your continued engagement in this work. As you write Maryland's climate plan, I urge the above. Thank you.

- Jon McBride, Montgomery County

No hyperbole - Our future on the planet depends on this.

- Jane Simpson, Montgomery County

Now, more than ever, it is critical that Maryland prepare the way for a future that meets environmental standards that will sustain our planet and benefit Marylanders' environmental needs.

- Charlett Bundy, Anne Arundel County

Our children are looking at our greed and ignorance astonished that we could trash their planet. Let's protect what and whom we love.

- Kim Lungociu, Anne Arundel County



Please add solar energy covering to all local and state owned government building, and public school/higher ed facility parking lots. This will lower the amt of heat generated by the blacktops and provide local energy that does not need bigger transmission lines. Keep that solar energy local and usable during energy blackouts. Do the same as above for low income housing projects and public hospitals. Encourage more solar projects that are local and don't need the national grid. Copy the Best Management Practices for wind energy that the Federal govt, already has for wind turbines on Federal land, but modify then for turbines over water. Make sure there is a recycling plan for the old wind turbine blades that does not include burying them! Make wind turbine blades more bird friendly, and do not put them in important migratory bird pathways, or else turn them off during migration. Make it a state crime to shoot at wind turbines or solar arrays! Try to hire more Maryland citizens to do all of the above. Encourage more local training facilities.

- Linda Bystrak, Wicomico County

Please allow this excellent Climate Solutions Now Act to come to fruition. We need to leave a liveable environment for our children and grandchildren!

- Diane Kupelian, Montgomery County

Please do all you can to implement changes to decrease greenhouse gas emissions and make Maryland and Marylanders more climate-ready. We need you to mobilize the general population to make necessary change for this important transition. Thanks for all your work so far and all best wishes going forward toward a new normal.

- Janet Gingold, Prince George's County

Please do even more!

- Victor Wittmann, Baltimore

Searise, fueled in part by climate change, is already leading to extirpation of birds. The Black Rail has virtually disappeared as a breeder, as the narrow range of its breeding substrate submerges. The Saltmarsh Sparrow is rapidly losing ground as the Spartina grasslands where they breed cannot migrate upslope fast enough. Broad-winged Hawks have virtually disappeared as breeders undoubtedly due to our failure to reign in deforestation.

- Kurt Schwartz, Howard County

Thank you, this is a must. Your transport plans are minimal at best. We need excellent public transport, like Europe. Much more and more efficient public transport networks to reduce car trips (electric is not the solution), lots of bike trails, green energy everywhere. We need a huge reduction in cars - as mode of transport.

- Jean Kaufman, Montgomery County

The current draft is a disservice to Maryland citizens, and seems to favor investor utilities over Maryland citizens, ratepayers, and environmental justice communities. It is long and repetitive on claims of inclusion, but somewhat short on real policy recommendations that support those claims. The draft must include the above.

- Andrew Hinz, Baltimore City

The Pathways report, as mentioned below, is almost silent on interconnection and transmission enhancements. The power grid needs to better support distributed solar and battery in order to maximize



resilience and to handle power peaks. The transition to electric vehicles does not need to be pushed until the grid is more robust and green.

- David Steigerwald, Montgomery County

There are no "winners" on a dead planet! The Earth is not dying - it is being killed by humans' actions. Let's be "good ancestors" instead of polluters and destroyers. We all must do "the right thing" and all do our part NOW to have any hope of a decent future on this priceless planet Earth.

- Deanna Harkins, Harford County

There is little of greater importance to this country and its citizens that to conserve and sustain its natural resources and the environment on which every living creature depends.

- Kenneth Mitchell, Anne Arundel County

There is more we can do. We need leaders and doers. Let us know how we can help you.

- Ned Tillman, Howard County

There is no time to lose!

- Lydia LaGue, Frederick County

This issue is extremely important to me.

- Mary Michael, Frederick County

To each person in the Maryland Department of the Environment: do all you can each day to accelerate Maryland toward achieving these goals. Do this for the children for the young adults and for yourself. You know in your heart it is the right thing to do. Do good in your lifetime, do a lot of good while you are with the Maryland Department of the Environment.

- Patrick Rockhill, Anne Arundel County

To Whom It May Concern: I am concerned not so much for myself, I'm 72 years old, but for my daughter and her family, everyone else's young families, and all the up and coming generations. Without the rapidly destructive climate changes being addressed quickly, life on Earth will become untenable eventually. This is already happening on broad swaths of the Earth now. I urge you to read this letter in its entirety, and take a positive n action as outlined. Then we. can set an an example for the rest of the U.S. and the world to follow.

- Maria Grande, Baltimore

We can't afford not to have clean energy!!!

- Patricia Beach, Frederick County

We must do more to help achieve a livable climate for our children and grandchildren. MD is poised to lead our nation and the time is now.

- Noreen Hyre, Prince George's County

We MUST take action NOW! We have run out of time.

- Elaine Phillips, Anne Arundel County



We need to ask now for the next generation of Maryland residents.

- Ryan James, Worcester County

We need to focus on climate change NOW for the sake of our children, grandchildren and future generations ... across the planet!!!

- Marsha McLaughlin, Baltimore

We not only need to reform the EmPOWER program, we need to fix STRIDE. We shouldn't be incentivizing more gas infrastructure but instead have a planned phaseout. We should incentivize smart management of the electrical grid versus incentivizing build outs. MDE should require all-electric new buildings or zero emissions appliances and be electric ready while assisting low- to moderate-income households switch off of gas for cooking, space and water heating.

- Liz Feighner, Howard County