

Maryland Commission on Climate Change Position Statement  
Regarding the Paris Climate Accord

With 3,100 miles of shoreline, Maryland is one of the states potentially most vulnerable to sea level rise associated with climate change. Maryland is fully committed to continuing its efforts to exceed the goals of the Paris Climate Accord. This position is supported by the bi-partisan Maryland Commission on Climate Change. The Commission is concerned that the President has announced his intent for the United States to withdraw from the Climate Accord. The Commission fully recognizes the need for national leadership and action on the global challenge of climate change and encourages the federal government to take note of the proactive and economically beneficial approach taken by Maryland to address climate change.

Maryland's Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions Acts of 2009 and 2016 require a 25% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions below 2006 levels by 2020 and a 40% reduction by 2030. These reduction requirements are already greater than the United States' voluntary reduction targets set in the Paris Climate Accord. Equally important, the Maryland law requires that these reductions be achieved in a manner that secures a net benefit to the State's economy and to job creation in Maryland. Current analyses indicate that the State's GHG reduction plan is expected to achieve the 25% by 2020 reduction requirement. The plan is also projected to create, by 2020, economic benefits between \$2.5 and \$3.5 billion and create and maintain between 26,000 and 33,000 new Maryland jobs.

The Maryland Commission on Climate Change, established in State law in 2015, is charged to assist the State in addressing the causes and impacts of climate change. The Commission is chaired by Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary Ben Grumbles and includes 6 additional members of the Governors Cabinet, 2 members from the Maryland General Assembly, the State Treasurer and 16 additional members representing environmental advocacy groups, state/local government, the private sector, labor, academia and non-profits.