



Harford County Climate Action

www.hcclimateaction.org

est. 2014

To: Governor Larry Hogan
Maryland Department of Transportation
Maryland Department of Environment
Maryland Commission on Climate Change

From: Harford County Climate Action, 617 Foxcroft Drive, Bel Air, MD 21014, a 501 (c) (3) organization

Subject: Transportation & Climate Initiative

Date: February 27, 2020

We write in strong support of the “Key Principles to Incorporate in the Design of the Transportation & Climate Initiative” signed by the Maryland Sierra Club, Union of Concerned Scientists, etc. (Please see attached letter.)

Members of Harford County Climate Action include chemists, biologists, medical doctors, and other professionals with science backgrounds. Some are employed at Aberdeen Proving Ground or for other parts of the U.S. government. These members have helped to educate our group about the science of climate change. The Harford County Council President invited us to speak to the Council and citizens about climate change in 2018. Because we have done a great deal of research on this topic, we realize that 1) **human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide** need to decrease to 45% of 2010 levels by 2030, and to "net zero" by 2050 and 2) prior forecasts of when impacts from climate change become dire and degree of impact have been too conservative.

These reductions in emissions *are* extremely ambitious, but we have no choice not to meet them. We expect our Maryland government to do everything in its power to do its share to achieve this goal just as we are doing in our personal lives. It has not been easy to pay for new, energy efficient appliances, or to buy an electric car or solar panels. It takes daily care and attention to purchase locally-grown foods from farms using regenerative farming practices. We have members who are going to great lengths to shrink their personal carbon footprints. So we expect the same effort regarding highway development, government subsidizing of the lowest-carbon energy sources, etc. Certainly, after fighting hard to bring a ban on hydraulic fracturing to Maryland, we do not want to see any subsidies for natural gas!

The “cap” or “limit” on pollution needs to be 45% based on the fact that we are doing no less than saving a livable planet. Projected revenues at the 25% target are \$500 million greater than at a 20% target. Revenues would ultimately be even higher if we extrapolate to a 45% target.

An aspect of the attached letter which is also important to our members is that it provides a path to strong community engagement in transportation decisions, something that is sorely needed. We also

agree that the regional framework should require a comprehensive environmental, health, economic, and “transit equity access analysis” alongside reporting on greenhouse gas emission reductions.

As concerned citizens, we want to be able to follow our state’s progress in meeting science-based objectives, so we request emissions reporting on a quarterly if not monthly basis.

Your actions are crucial to our futures. Therefore, we are grateful for your careful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Tracey Waite, President
Harford County Climate Action