

Testimony

My name is Carolyn Stoller and I am testifying today as a sophomore at Loyola University Maryland. I am writing in support of City Council Bill 21-0161, the Net Zero Carbon Emissions Ordinance.

Although it is important to me that our city government strive for a carbon-neutral environment by 2045, but I'd love to achieve the goal of carbon-zero. Carbon-zero is not an unrealistic goal. In fact, Loyola University Maryland's Sustainability Management Club recently visited a carbon-zero building by [AGU](#) in Washington D.C. This building in Washington D.C. is able to achieve a carbon neutral environment by closely regulating the use of electricity, heating, and water usage. We must strive to be carbon zero because without the proper air quality and green spaces created by a carbon zero environment, the overall health of humans and nonhumans will be destroyed. As an activist for environmentalism and sustainability, I am passionate about resolving environmental injustices and protecting people and other than humans who are disproportionately effected by environmental challenges. Undoubtedly, Baltimoreans in the poorest neighborhoods suffer the most from the pass production of carbon, toxic chemicals and other greenhouse gasses. Moreover, Baltimore is known for it's history of redlining, which has directly contributed to the lack of green spaces in the city. For this reason, the mental and physical health for all Baltimoreans have severely declined. For instance, dangerous levels of toxic chemicals, such as asbestos has lead to close to 50 percent of African American infants in Baltimore's inner city have tested positive for lead contamination ([baltimoresun.com](#)). However, going carbon-neutral will not protect our Baltimore citizens. The idea of carbon-neutral still places a great emphasis on extraction and industrial practices. For example, although we may have the technology to take out carbon from the air, we are still justifying the industrialization of our land. We are not only hurting the health of humans, but will continue to take away the

natural habitats for key species in our natural world. In turn, without having a carbon-zero mindset, the toxic air quality in Baltimore will not disappear. In order to gain reciprocity and a harmonious relationship with the Baltimore environment, we must change our everyday activities and desire to industrialize to reach a carbon-zero environment. Baltimore can achieve this by promoting the restoration of green spaces and trees within Baltimore neighborhoods, especially those cities that have suffered from redlining for decades.

As a Baltimorean, I'd like to urge a favorable report on Bill 21-0161. Thank you for your time.