



Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Dear Baltimore City Council Health, Environment, and Technology Committee,

Clean Water Action strongly supports CB21-0161, City Operations – Net-Zero Emissions of Greenhouse Gases. We urge you to pass this bill with the amendments being offered by Blue Water Baltimore, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and the National Aquarium to strengthen the legislation and support the city's progress toward climate action.

Climate change is already bringing a wide range of consequences to Baltimore City and our surrounding region, from increased rainfall causing flooding and sewer backups, to lengthened heat waves that hit Baltimore's historically redlined neighborhoods the hardest. Baltimore City government has a duty to reduce the city's contributions to climate change in order to support the communities both here and around the world disproportionately suffering from climate change and the natural disasters it brings. CB21-0601 is a valuable tool in the toolbox to do just that.

In order to best meet these needs, we urge the committee to adopt amendments to make the bill even more effective. Moving the target date from 2050 to 2045 and tweaking the bill's emission reduction goals will bring this legislation into alignment with existing state and city policies. Limiting the use of offsets is important to make sure that the bill is driving emissions reductions, particularly in communities most impacted by local air pollution that harms public health. And strengthening public input processes for this legislation will ensure that the mechanisms of this transition reflect the priorities of Baltimore City residents and increase community buy-in for climate action.

Please support CB21-0161 with amendments to strengthen Baltimore City government's leadership in climate action.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Kunze".

Jennifer Kunze  
Maryland Program Coordinator  
Clean Water Action  
[jkunze@cleanwater.org](mailto:jkunze@cleanwater.org)