

My name is Annabella Ritter-Pleitez, and I am testifying today as a first-year student at Loyola University Maryland. I am writing in support of City Council Bill 21-0161, the Net Zero Carbon Emissions Ordinance.

It is important to me that our city government goes carbon-neutral by 2045 because I am worried about my future, the future of my younger siblings, and the future of Baltimore. If carbon dioxide emissions continue to increase, higher death rates, severe weather, and dirtier air will increase as well. This is not a future we want to leave in the hands of our children, and this bill will hold our city accountable for our part in global warming.

In addition to the future of our children, however, the increase of greenhouse emissions also effect the future of Baltimore. In a city that prides itself on its world-renowned crabs, it is necessary to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide, for the increase causes the Chesapeake Bay's acidity levels to rise. If the Bay's acidity levels rise, oysters will be unable to extract calcium for their shells, and as a result, the blue crabs, which feed on oysters, will suffer.

This bill, therefore, does not just improve the future of our environment; it protects what Baltimore prides itself in. Our city, the birthplace of the United States' anthem, must do its part to reduce global warming, to protect its blue crabs, and to promise a bright future to its children.

As a young, relatively new but extremely proud Baltimorean, I urge a favorable report on Bill 21-0161. Thank you for your time.