

3/14/22

My name is Tim Schluth and I am testifying today as a Sophomore at Loyola University Maryland. I am writing today 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 do not want Baltimore to fall behind or be any less ambitious than other major American cities when it comes to climate policy. Considering my role as a Baltimorean, a Maryland resident, and a United States citizen, I know that it is important to pay attention to climate policy on every level of government. The climate crisis—even as we may think of it as a global issue—requires local solutions and effort, especially when we consider the ways it may manifest in our city and state. The rising sea levels and an influx of natural disasters that we’re already starting to see could do incalculable damage— not just pertaining to individual ecosystems, homes, and businesses, but to entire swaths of land here. As a young person concerned about our future, especially in the midst of recent startling reports from the IPCC, I find policy like this to be an encouraging step in the right direction. It is vital to keep setting more specific targets and increasing transparency if we are to protect future generations of Baltimoreans, and I’m glad that this bill would serve to do just that. Therefore, I am urging a favorable report on Bill 21-0161. Thank you for your time.