

ADDRESS

**Re: Support of Senate Bill 926/House Bill 1425 (Climate Solutions Act of 2020 – Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act)**

Dear Senator/Delegate,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 926/House Bill 1425 (Climate Solutions Act of 2020 – Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act). My name is Joseph Jakuta and I live in Mount Rainier, MD in District 47A. I am writing in regards to this legislation, mostly as a father of two young children, XXXX and YYYY. It is vital that we start to take bold action in Maryland to reduce emissions. If we don't act we will be leaving XXXX, YYYY, and the other children their age a world that we would not want for ourselves and if we do act we can become the heroes the children deserve.

Firstly, I want to discuss why it is the moral case to enact this legislation. I am sure that every Marylander wants to see that their grandchildren, the grand nieces and nephews, and their friend's grandchildren not face a calamitous world due to the climate emergency that will continue to be brought on by increased use of fossil fuels. By not enacting this important legislation we would be making a decision that we, as Marylanders, do not want to do our part to leave a world for our future generations to grow old and happy in.

I think that is important to keep mind that our religious leaders, such as Pope Frances have said that it is our moral imperative to act to reduce the harms of climate change. In his encyclical on climate change he said that "reducing greenhouse gases requires honesty, courage and responsibility," and I know that the Board of Trustees has those traits and will act.

The one amazing thing about Senate Bill 926/ House Bill 1425 is that if it is enacted it would be the first legislation to truly say that we are listening to the scientists. In 2018, the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a report unequivocally saying that in order to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius we must reduce global net emissions to zero by 2050.<sup>1</sup>

Now this bill sets Maryland's goal for net zero emissions in 2045, but there is strong case for why Maryland should meet the goal sooner. Maryland is one of the wealthiest states in the United States and the United States is both the largest historical emitter and second largest current emitter of greenhouse gases. Maryland must be a leader and show to others what can and must be done.

Will there be economic impacts to Maryland from implementing such a bold initiative? Well there certainly will be change. We will become a leader in implementing the technologies of the future that is for cure. If evidence from our participation in the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments/>

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a regional cap and trade program for greenhouse gas emissions, is any indicator achieving these goals will benefit our economy<sup>2</sup> and health<sup>3</sup> rather than detract from it. A recent book called “Project Drawdown” analyzes the economic impact of many climate solutions and finds net benefits from many of them.<sup>4</sup>

Throughout our history as a Nation, Maryland has come forward in times of need. Whether defending our Nation against the British at Fort McHenry or remaining on the right side in the Civil War to protect the Union. Now is the time for us to be the heroes again. We must face the Climate Crisis head on and pass the Climate Solutions Act of 2020 and show that Maryland is ready to lead the charge.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 926/House Bill 1425.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joseph Jakuta".

Joseph Jakuta  
Mount Rainier, MD

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<sup>2</sup> [https://acadiacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Acadia-Center\\_RGGI-Report\\_Outpacing-the-Nation.pdf](https://acadiacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Acadia-Center_RGGI-Report_Outpacing-the-Nation.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.abtassociates.com/rggi>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.drawdown.org/>