



ALLIANCE
FOR **GLOBAL WARMING SOLUTIONS**

MAKING MARYLAND A LEADER

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Dawn Stoltzfus, 410-280-9855 or 410-562-5655 cell, dstoltzfus@mdlcv.org
Anne Havemann, 240-396-1985, claire@chesapeakeclimate.org

***Business Leaders, Scientists, Environmentalists Testify in Favor of
Bill to Promote Clean Energy and Cut Global Warming Pollution 25% by 2020***

*Advocates Say the Global Warming Solutions Act Will Create “Green Collar” Jobs,
Help Reduce Long-Term Energy Costs, and Lead Maryland into “Clean Energy Future”;
Governor O’Malley Also Announces His Strong Support*

ANNAPOLIS, MD – The Senate Committee on Education Health and Environmental Affairs today holds its first hearing on the “Global Warming Solutions Act” (SB 309). The bill would require the state to implement a series of clean energy and smart growth policies over the next several years that, taken together, would result in a reduction of global warming pollution by at least 25% by 2020 in Maryland. Leading scientists, health officials, business leaders and environmentalists joined together at today’s hearing to testify in favor of the bill. Earlier in the day, environmental groups met with Governor Martin O’Malley, who expressed his “strong, strong support” for the bill.

“Sustainability initiatives create jobs,” said Rex Wright of Johnson Controls, Inc, a company that specializes in building efficiency. “The soon to be completed energy efficiency initiatives between Johnson Controls, Inc. and Baltimore City Public Schools, for example, created over 200 jobs, over 50 of which were created for minority and women-owned businesses. Sustainability works; it creates jobs.”

The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2008 would require Maryland to reduce its global warming pollution 25% by 2020 and 90% by 2050 and as cost-effectively as possible, as recommended by the Maryland Commission on Climate Change. These targets, based on what scientists recommend is necessary to avoid the worst impacts of global warming, would be the strongest in the nation.

Cindy Schwartz, Executive Director of the Maryland League of Conservation Voters, said: “To have Governor O’Malley come out so strongly in support of the Global Warming Solutions Act is exciting, and we are enormously appreciative. The governor’s support of this bill is a testament to his forward-thinking vision and is recognition of how important this issue is to Marylanders.”

“Maryland is one of the most vulnerable states in the nation to the impacts of global warming-induced sea level rise, said Dr. Don Boesch, a coastal scientist at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. “Global warming has the potential to greatly affect our coastline, the resources of the Chesapeake Bay, agriculture and human health. Setting serious goals for reducing our greenhouse gas emissions is a necessary first step in Maryland’s efforts to mitigate the potential catastrophic consequences from global warming.”

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In its first report, released in December, the top recommendation of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change was to adopt this strong cap on global warming pollution, a recommendation that has received widespread public support. More than 15,000 Marylanders have signed a petition in favor of the Global Warming Solutions Act, and environmentalists contend that this bill is a win-win solution for Maryland.

The House Environmental Matters & Economic Matters Committees will hold a hearing on the House version of the Global Warming Solutions Act (HB 712) in the Joint Hearing Room on February 29th at 12 p.m.

Recently enacted legislation, including the Healthy Air Act, the Clean Cars Act and other bills, will achieve more than one-quarter of the reductions required by this bill. The rest would come from a major new statewide energy efficiency program, increased use of renewable energy and clean fuels, smart growth measures, green building codes, and the construction of small, efficient power plants to gradually replace massive, old-fashioned plants. Other reductions would come from carbon sequestration projects, such as planting forest buffers along tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay, innovative agricultural practices, and saltwater marsh restoration.

Public Perceptions about Global Warming

In a 2007 Washington Post poll, 86% of respondents said they think global warming will be a serious problem if nothing is done to reduce it in the future, and a majority think global warming is the single biggest environmental problem the world faces at this time. In addition, 70% think the government should do more than it's doing now to try to deal with global warming. (Washington Post/ABC News/Stanford University http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/nation/polls/postpoll_environment_042007.html April 10, 2007 Sample: 1002 adults nationwide)

Impacts of Global Warming

- Maryland, with its 3,100 miles of tidally influenced coastline, is highly susceptible to negative impacts from global warming.
- Global average temperatures increased by more than 1.4° F in the past century. Sea level is rising, ice and snow cover are decreasing, and storm intensity has increased.
- World average temperatures could increase by another 3 to 7° F above late 20th century levels by the end of this century, depending on future emissions of global warming pollutants. Sea level could rise by between 11 and 17 inches, threatening low-lying coastal areas.

The Alliance for Global Warming Solutions is composed of health, faith, business, environmental and community groups working together to find solutions to this global crisis. Visit www.alliancemd.org for more information.

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Contacts

- Senator Paul Pinsky: (410) 841-3155
- Delegate Kumar Barve: (301) 417-0158
- Audubon Naturalist Society, Mike Harold, mmharold@gmail.com, 301-652-9188
- Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Mike Tidwell, mike@chesapeakeclimate.org, 240.460.5838
- Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility, Cindy Parker, MD, ciparker@jhsph.edu, 410-493-4571
- Chesapeake Sustainable Business Alliance, Keith Losoya, Keith@CSBAlliance.org, 410-342-1482
- Environment Maryland, Brad Heavner, bsh@environmentmaryland.org, 410-467-0439
- Lutheran Office on Public Policy, Lee Hudson, messiahodsq@netzero.net, 410-935-3696
- Maryland League of Conservation Voters, Cindy Schwartz, cschwartz@mdlcv.org, 240-535-6050
- Sierra Club - Maryland Chapter, Dave O'Leary, daveol@earthlink.net, 301-277-7111



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1000 Friends of Maryland, 1Sky Campaign, Alliance for Sustainable Communities, Alta Plana Corporation, Am Kolel Jewish Renewal Center, American Plant Food Company, An Ounce of Prevention, Anacostia Watershed Society, Annapolis Bookstore, Audubon Naturalist Society, Baltimore Climate Action Network, Baltimore Green Forum, Baltimore Jewish Environmental Network, Benjamin Miller, MD, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Environmental Club, Brennan & Company Architects, Broadneck High School Environmental Club, Browdy and Neimark PLLC, Campaign for Fresh Air and Clean Politics, University of Maryland Baltimore Campus County Climate Initiative, Cecil County Medical Society, Cedar Heights Civic Association, Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, Cedar Lane Universalist Church Environmental Task Force, Center for a New American Dream, Washington College Center for Environment & Society, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility, Chesapeake Sustainable Business Alliance (CSBA), Citizens for a Green Mount Airy, Clean Water Action, Climate Change Initiative of Howard County, Coalition for Smarter Growth, Committee on the Environment of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, Community & Environmental Defense Services, Community Ministries of Prince George's County, Conservation Engineering, Design One, The Dogwood, Earth Alley, Earth Party/ICRSE, Environment Maryland, Environmental Integrity Project, eProcess Solutions, Faith Community United Methodist Church, Fire Horse Acupuncture, Friends of Lower Beaverdam Creek, Generations for Peace and Democracy, Global Warming Action Alliance, Goucher College Environmental Group, Greater Annapolis Climate Action Network, Greater Washington Interfaith Power & Light, Green Sanctuary Committee of the Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Green Sanctuary Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis, Greenbelt Climate Action Network (GCAN), Home Energy Loss Professionals, Hopkins Energy Action Team HEAT (JHU), Joseph Adams, MD, Katcef Associates, League of Women Voters, Lutheran Office on Public Policy, Maryland Art Materials, Maryland Conservation Council, Maryland Green Party, Maryland Interfaith Coalition for the Environment, Maryland League of Conservation Voters, Maryland PIRG, Maryland Sierra Club, Maryland Student Climate Coalition, Maryland United for Peace and Justice, MC Green - Montgomery College, Minás, Molly Perkins Hauck, Ph.D. (Psychologist), Montgomery Countryside Assistance, Montgomery County Student Environmental Activists (MCSEA), N F W Enterprises, Inc., Network of Spiritual Progressives in Maryland, One Straw Farm, Oxon Hill High School Sierra Student Coalition, Phoenix International Inc., Plans and Solutions, Inc., Potomac River Association, Progressive Cheverly, Progressive Neighbors, Revolution Construction Services, Richard Hill Engineering, River Road Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Task Force, Frostburg State University Sierra Student Coalition, SMEI (Simplicity Matters Earth Institute), Solaleya, S-R-J Capital, LLC, St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church Environmental Stewardship Committee, St. Mary's College of Maryland Student Environmental Action Coalition, Standard Solar, University of Baltimore - Student Climate Coalition, Salisbury University - Student Environmental Association, St. John's College - Students for a Sustainable Future, Sun Day Campaign, TerraLogos Green Home Services, The Quixote Center, Thunder Hill Park Alliance, Towson University - Towson Energy Activists, University of Maryland College Park - Students for Clean Energy, Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring's Global Warming Study/Action Group, Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry for Maryland, University of Maryland School of Nursing Environmental Health Education Center, W.L. Gore & Associates, Weil, Akman, Baylin & Coleman, West Wind Farm, Yelton Construction Co., LLC, The Zipin Law Firm, LLC