

Committee: Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy, and Environment Committee
Testimony on: CR-032-2022
Organization: Climate Parents of Prince George's
Person Submitting: Joseph Jakuta, Lead Volunteer
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: June 23, 2022



Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Thank you for considering our testimony in support of CR-032-2022 a “Resolution concerning Adoption of the Climate Action Plan.” Climate Parents is a campaign to reduce climate change causing pollution in our schools and our group is active in Prince George’s County. In particular, we worked directly with Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) technical staff and other advocates to develop a Climate Action Plan for PGCPS as part of a Board of Education Focus Workgroup.

We are already seeing first hand effects of climate change in our county, most particularly in flooding events in Cheverly and Fort Washington and an increasing number of high temperature days. That is why it is vital to retain the wording of “adopting” the County Climate Action Plan policy for Prince George’s County as is found in CR-032-2022 DR-2. If the plan were to just be accepted it would likely be put onto a shelf as have been done with plans in the past and that cannot happen as the younger generation is already facing a grim climate future and further delay is not an option for them.

We will reiterate that numerous grants and other funding from the American Rescue Plan, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and state and private funds will be awarded to make communities resilient to climate change and help to mitigate emissions. Having an adopted Climate Action Plan adopted by the county will provide another point of evidence to grantors that we are prepared to spend these funds and can make the most of any awards. These funds will not just benefit our community in terms of climate change, but some can help reduce the energy burden on low income residents, make our streets safer, and lessen the impact of flooding on Prince Georgians.

We are also thankful that CR-032-2022 DR-2 now contains our proposed revision to align the deadlines in the resolution with Maryland state law.

We encourage a FAVORABLE report for this important resolution and support ADOPTION of the Climate Action Plan.