GREEN ORGANIZING ACTION TEAM:
“GOAT NOAT” FOR MARCH 2020

The General Assembly of Maryland is now more than half way through its annual session for 2020, and it is crunch time for moving bills through the process. Members of GOAT have participated in sessions to identify and explain some priority bills. We work closely with Quaker Voice of Maryland and the Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake. This Noat highlights four bills that are being supported by environmentalists. We urge you to consider supporting these bills by contacting your legislators.

Quaker Voice of Maryland (QVM) https://www.quakervoiceemd.org

*Climate Solutions Act of 2020 - Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act | SB0926, HB1425*

This legislation would change Maryland law so that our state would be required to reduce all greenhouse gas emissions 60% by 2030 and achieve net zero by 2045. It will also require Maryland Department for the Environment to create a Climate Justice Workgroup to identify frontline and disadvantaged communities and ensure equitable investment.


*Climate Crisis and Education Act | SB0912*

This legislation would charge fossil fuel companies. Revenue generated from those charges would be invested in clean energy infrastructure improvements, used to protect low- and moderate-income households from financial harm, and invest $350 million annually to help fund the Kirwan Commission's recommendations for education.

More information compiled by QVM: https://bit.ly/38mVpQu

Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake (IPC)

*Ban on Chlorpyrifos (SB0300/HB0229)*, a toxic pesticide that has harmful effects on children, farm workers, and pollinators.

- Powerful lobbies in the agricultural chemical industry are working against this bill.
- The Maryland Department of Agriculture has said that they would ban use of the pesticide temporarily while regulations for its use are being written. There is suspicion that this may be a ploy to appease advocates for the ban.
- Districts 9 and 28 remain critical districts. If you live in these districts please call your representative.
- See the Baltimore Sun editorial in support of the ban bill from 2.26.20.

*Ban on Plastic Bags (SB0209/HB0313)*

- Hearings in both House and Senate have occurred and there seems to be widespread support for the bill including an endorsement from the Maryland Retailers Association.
However, please continue to reach out to your legislators to let them know you support this bill.

Current GOAT members are Carol Beck, Gary Gillespie (Clerk), Polly Heninger, John McKusick, Bess Keller, and Rachael Neill. GOAT is an open committee that meets monthly on the 3rd Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in the Library. We would love to hear your questions, concerns, and ideas.