

IN FAVOR OF SENATE BILL 912
Testimony to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Environment – Climate Crisis and Education Act
Testimony of Melissa McKenna and Paul Geller, Community Advocates
Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and distinguished Senators,

We are here to urge your favorable report on Senate Bill 912 Environment – Climate Crisis and Education Act. Thank you Senator Kramer for re-introducing this important legislation.

There are three reasons why we support this legislation:

- 1) As advocates for our public school students statewide, this bill addresses an issue of major benefit to our kids – curbing the production of green house gas emissions.
- 2) This bill will create significant funding for the Kirwan Initiative Fund, while protecting low- and moderate-income households and small businesses from adverse increases in energy costs.
- 3) We greatly appreciate the fact that, “funds received from the fees on high-emissions vehicles must be used to (1) provide rebates on the sale of electric vehicles; (2) purchase electric transit and school buses; and (3) expand electric vehicle infrastructure.”

We’re here today for our children. SB912, the Climate Crisis and Education Act, or the very aptly named “Our Children’s Future Act,” is a win/win for everyone.

One of the most important things we can do for future generations is leave the planet in better shape than we inherited it. We must ramp up our efforts and do our part. We’re here today for our children. SB912, the Climate Crisis and Education Act, or the very aptly named “Our Children’s Future Act,” is a win/win for everyone. Fees collected from those contributing to polluting the air with carbon dioxide go towards providing incentives for the purchase of cleaner electric vehicles and the infrastructure needed to support them; protections are put in place for low- and moderate-income residents; a Climate Crisis Council will be created to help further save the Chesapeake Bay, our “3,100 miles of tidally influenced shoreline” which is highly susceptible to sea level change, and our lungs; AND a guaranteed \$350M per year will be invested in the Kirwan Initiative Fund. By supporting this bill you will be taking a bold step toward improving the environment and helping fund the greatest education transformation in a generation in one fell swoop.

Thank you. We ask you for a favorable report on Senate Bill 912.

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IN FAVOR OF SENATE BILL 912

Testimony to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee Environment – Climate Crisis and Education Act

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