



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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March 12, 2020

To: House Economic Matters Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Opposition of HB1543 - Environment - Climate Crisis and Education Act**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony opposing HB 1543. This bill establishes a Climate Crisis Initiative in the Department of the Environment. The initiative provides for: the establishment of greenhouse gas reduction goals; the establishment of a climate crisis council; the assessment of greenhouse gas pollution fees; funding for education under the recommendations of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, commonly known as the “Kirwan Initiative”; the assessment of a fee on the sale or registration of new high-emission vehicles; benefits to households and employers in the state to mitigate the impact of fees under the initiative; and the funding of activities for greenhouse gas reduction and sequestration, improvements in resiliency, and the promotion of a just economic transition in the state.

In this bill, a greenhouse gas pollution fee shall be collected on all fossil fuels brought into the state for combustion in the state and electricity used in the state that is generated by fossil fuels. There are no exemptions for fuels used in agriculture. Farmers don't have the ability to increase their commodity prices to compensate for the increased cost of production a bill like this would create.

Maryland Farm Bureau Policy:

- We oppose the creation of a state carbon and/or greenhouse gas reduction tax/fee.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU RESPECTFULLY OPPOSES HB 1543

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