

**March 12, 2020**

**BILL:** HB 1543  
**TITLE:** Climate Crisis and Education Act  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT  
**HEARING DATE:** 3/12/2020  
**COMMITTEE:** Economic Matters  
**SPONSOR:** Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo

Members of the Committee:

As a 30-year resident of Maryland, my adopted state, I urge you to support HB 1543, the Climate Crisis and Education Act, sponsored by Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo. This bill is critically important to Maryland's future. It would lead to dramatic reductions in fossil fuel CO2 emissions and demonstrate that Maryland is a leading state in fighting climate change and in establishing a clean energy economy, while protecting those most in need during the transition period.

Through its innovative fee structure on fossil fuels, the Climate Crisis and Education Act would establish three funds essential to Maryland's future:

- (1) The Climate Crisis Infrastructure Fund will generate \$180 million in Year 1, and more than \$500 million in 2030, to achieve additional fossil fuel emissions mitigation, build resilient infrastructure, and provide a just transition to Maryland's new clean energy economy.
- (2) The Household and Employer Benefit Fund will provide \$490 million in Year 1, and more than \$850 million in 2030. These benefits will protect low-income households and energy-intensive trade-exposed businesses from financial harm, as well as help fossil fuel-dependent workers and communities make the transition to a clean energy economy.
- (3) HB 1543 would also provide funding for the House of Delegates public schools reform bill, which was based on the Commission chaired by former University System of Maryland chancellor, Brit Kirwan. HB 1543 would provide additional funding, \$350 million annually, to supplement the various other revenue sources under consideration.

HB 1543 is a critical investment to help ensure the sustained success of our state's economy and environment, and a critical investment in the future success of our children and students.

For these reasons and more, I urge a favorable report on HB 1543.

Respectfully submitted,

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