



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

SUPPORT

HB 1543

Environment - Climate Crisis and Education Act

Testimony presented by The Rev. Kenneth O. Phelps, Jr.

Dear Chair and members of the committee,

For our children's education and our children's future, the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland urges you to give a favorable report to (SB 0912/HB 1543). This bill will fund a world class education for our children today and give them a livable future tomorrow.

Greta Thunburg and millions of children around the world have been asking "What is the point of going to school if there isn't going to be a livable planet for us to inherit and use our education." This legislation will help fulfill our obligation to the next generation.

Crucially, the legislation also includes a provision prohibiting the fossil fuel industry from passing these costs onto consumers. This means end use consumers like me and you will not pay a dime for any of this, and the funding will come directly from the fossil fuel industry, an industry that nets more than \$300 million in profits every day.

As we are called by God to care for creation, we support policies that protect the natural resources that sustain all life on Earth. The Church calls for policies that mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, promote sustainable energy, the safe and just use of natural resources, and support communities impacted by a lack of environmental stewardship.

This bill is a rare opportunity to fund our schools, reduce our pollution, and protect consumers. We urge the committee to give a favorable report.