

March 7th, 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

Dear Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo,

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chestertown Chapter includes members from Cambridge, in Dorchester County to Rock Hall, in Kent County. We, here on the Eastern Shore of Maryland are hardest hit by sea level rise due to Climate Change.

According to a report from [Climate Central](#) coastal flood days are increasing due to climate change. An intermediate high sea level rise scenario leads to better than even chances of record-breaking coastal floods within the next 60 years in the Baltimore and Annapolis areas, and as soon as 20 years in other parts of the state. Under a slower scenario, floods are still likely this century to reach dangerously more than 5 feet above the high tide line throughout the state.

Delmarva as a whole includes some 183,000 people, 116,000 homes, \$42 billion in property value, 3,400 miles of roads, and 401 EPA-listed sites on 582,000 acres of unprotected land below 5 feet. Among its neighbors, Maryland faces the greatest threats to land, property value, road miles and EPA-listed sites at this level.

We are facing an existential climate crisis! Young people around the world are truly scared of how climate change will affect our futures. This bill, which puts a price on carbon emissions, offers Marylanders a win-win solution. By requiring the fossil fuel producer to pay for emissions, it provides a market-based solution that generates billions of dollars of money ready to be reinvested in Maryland's economy. The monies would be invested annually in 3 ways: (1) \$350 million per year to fund Kirwan Initiative, (2) \$180-\$500 million for green infrastructure and (3) \$490-\$850 million for its most vulnerable population, and energy intensive trade exposed businesses impacted by carbon pollution.

For these reasons and more, I Hope Clark, on behalf of the Citizens Climate Lobby Chestertown Chapter urge a FAVORABLE REPORT on HB 1543.

Respectfully submitted,
Hope Clark
Group Leader
Citizens Climate Lobby Chestertown Chapter
410 778 9031

Cc: Members of the Economic Matters Committee