

Submission date 2/14/2022

HEARING DATE: 2/15/2022

**BILL:** SB0135 - SPONSOR: Senator Benjamin Kramer  
**TITLE:** Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act (CCEJ)  
**POSITION:** Favorable  
**COMMITTEE:** Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs &  
Budget and Taxation

Dear Members of the Committee,

**My name is Raaga Katta and I live in District 9B.** Regarding education and health, we are [learning](#) about the effects of pollution from [studies](#) in schools about emissions, poor air quality, and lead poisoning on children's educational outcomes. Exposure to pollutants in schools has significant, negative impacts on test scores, suspensions, and/or absence from school. The CCEJ can give back to communities that have been harmed the most through the Climate Crisis Benefit Fund and the Infrastructure Fund, including those communities' schools.

[Research](#) on the effects of children's learning ability shows us that maintaining lower air pollution levels by 20% could improve the development of a child's working memory by 6.1%, the equivalent of four weeks extra learning time per year. Air pollution from burning fossil fuels is causing or worsening heart disease, asthma, lung disease, and cancer. The particulates in air pollution can also threaten pregnant women and the health of their babies. This [study](#) shows that reducing GHGs improves air quality and prevents premature deaths.

The CCEJ provides funds for low and moderate-income families as well as local governments to create and implement climate action plans to reduce GHG emissions. This bill is the economic solution to our climate problem. It provides the funding needed for resiliency and supports the most vulnerable people and businesses as we make the necessary transition from a fossil fuel economy to a sustainable economy.

Presently our economy is dependent on a product that is detrimental to our existence. Burning fossil fuels are warming our earth, causing havoc. Leading economists and scientists around the world agree putting a price on carbon is one of our best tools to deal with our changing climate. This bill is clear about what it will accomplish and how it will work.

For these reasons and more, I urge a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB0135. Respectfully submitted,

**Raaga Katta**  
**4438455797**

Cc: Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee & Budget and Taxation