

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

Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and distinguished members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and Chairman Guzzone and Vice-Chair Rosapepe and distinguished members of the Budget and taxation committees.

My name is Shriya Reddy, and I am currently in 11th grade at Centennial High School. Civic engagement and climate action are two things that I am incredibly passionate about.

As our situation worsens with the climate crisis, making changes for our future becomes more and more necessary. The effects of climate change are visible, especially in Maryland. I live less than a mile away from Old Ellicott City, which suffered horrible flooding in 2017 and 2018, and many homes and small businesses in the historic district were destroyed.

The Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act, (CCEJ), SB135, focuses on creating change involving how Maryland approaches sustainable development by implementing a fee to generate revenue. It is a great way to begin taking steps towards a cleaner future and prevent issues like the flooding near my home from being a perpetual problem.

In terms of sustainable development, the United Nations worked with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and found that to stabilize current climate levels, we would need 0 net emissions by 2050. With SB135, Maryland would be able to achieve this by 2040. Even with Maryland's current plans for more significant investments and tools to develop new projects for climate improvement, funding is vital.

Not only does the CCEJ encourage future action, but it creates a budget to guarantee that Maryland can implement its future climate protection plans. The fees that the bill creates also will dedicate revenue towards the welfare of the state and for projects that directly generate change in Maryland while also aiding low and moderate-income households.

Taking action soon is the only option, and with all that the Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act offers, it is a great way to solve our issues.

Shriya Reddy
4065 Tiber Falls Drive, Ellicott City, MD, 21043
Rebuild Maryland Coalition Student Movement
410-900-5542

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