

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 Jeffrey Johnson and I live in District 41, and I represent the Chesapeake Earth Holders Community of Engaged Buddhism.

The Worldwide Earth Holder Community in the tradition of Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh supports systemic change that protects and preserves the Earth and all who depend on her for life and well-being. We ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB0135, The Maryland Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act (CCEJ).

At present, our economy is dependent on a product that is detrimental to our very existence. Transportation, electricity and buildings account for nearly 90% of Maryland greenhouse gas emissions. The CCEJ is designed to lower carbon emissions by 60% from 2006 levels by 2030 and get Maryland to net-zero by 2045.

Burning fossil fuel is warming our earth, causing havoc at many levels. By placing an incrementally rising fee on fossil fuel the bill will not only send a market signal to businesses and reduce pollution. It will also create revenue for vulnerable populations and build the infrastructure we need for a new green economy across the state.

[Research](#) on the effects on children's learning shows that maintaining lower air pollution levels by 20% could improve the development of a child's working memory by 6.1%. Air pollution from burning fossil fuels is causing or worsening heart disease, asthma, lung disease, and cancer.

The CCEJ 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.

Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh said, "The earth is not the environment, something outside of us that we need to care for. The earth is us. Taking care of the earth, we take care of ourselves."

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

Jeffrey Johnson

Regional Coordinator, Chesapeake Earth Holders Community of Engaged Buddhism

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