

Submission Date: 2/11/2022

Hearing Date: 2/15/2022

BILL: SB0135
TITLE: Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act (CCEJ)
POSITION: Favorable
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Dear Committee Members,

I am Lynda DeWitt, a Bethesda resident and owner of Solar Mowing, a lawn and landscaping business. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of CCEJ.

I started Solar Mowing 14 years ago for the simple reason that I hated the smell and noise of my gasoline-powered mower, and I strongly suspected that other people felt the same way. And they did — and do. I've never had an advertising budget, yet the business grows each year. My experience shows that people are hungry for solutions to our emissions crisis. Not just the well-to-do in certain zip codes but people everywhere. We get frequent calls from folks outside our service area, who we can't help. Heck, we get calls from Cleveland and Chicago.

Also, our crew members (who, by the way, earn more than Montgomery County's minimum wage) aren't subjected to nauseating fumes or deafening engine noise. If they have something in their ears, it's earbuds allowing them to listen to music or podcasts — while they mow. Many of our customers, working from home, don't even know we're outside unless they see us through a window.

As a homeowner and a business owner, I'm so grateful for energy choice that I've taken advantage of long before I started Solar Mowing in 2009. I would like to go on record, however, encouraging leaders of the state to better promote renewable energy choice. I have found that many people don't know about the option and/or have misconceptions about its difficulty and expense.

Lastly, let me say what we all know: The cost of *not* reducing greenhouse gas emissions and *not* acting in an environmentally just way is unimaginable in terms of dollars, destruction, and deaths. I wish it was 1992 or even 2002. But now, in 2022, we must act boldly. I urge you to support SB0135.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda DeWitt
Solar Mowing, Founder/Owner
301-787-5018

cc: Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee