

Testimony-SB 135-Support-UULMMD-Phil Webster - Goo

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Position: FAV



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

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Testimony in Support SB 135 - Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act

To: Chairman Pinsky and the members of the Education, Health and
Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Phil Webster, PhD - Lead Advocate, Climate Change
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland.

Date: February 15, 2022

The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland (UULM-MD) strongly supports **SB 135 Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act** and urges a FAVORABLE report by the committee.

The UULM-MD is a faith-based advocacy organization based on the Principles of Unitarian Universalism. Two Principles are particularly relevant. The Second Principle, Justice, equity and compassion in human relations and the Seventh Principle, Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

We believe in justice, equity and compassion in human relations. We know that global climate change impacts under-invested communities first and worst. This legislation implicitly recognizes that fossil fuels have—and continue to—drive climate change; and that the cost to remediate negative effects must be borne by the fossil fuel industries, in the form of fees on fossil fuels. Residents of communities that are located near sources of pollution (ie: separated by a fence or fence line communities) have suffered significant damage to their health and their economic fortunes due to environmental pollution and this Act recognizes that damage with 25% of the fees raised to be invested in environmental remediation in their communities. This is a significant point. It is equally significant that an additional 40% of the fees will go to families and individuals which the increased cost of fossil fuels is a significant burden. The Act also creates a Climate Crisis Council specifically to administer these funds.

We also believe that we should all have respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. We all know that the growing use of fossil fuels increases greenhouse gasses leading to increasing global temperatures. The increasing fees on fossil fuels will incentivize individuals and businesses to reduce (and eventually end) the use of fossil fuels. At the same time, up to 25% of the fees will be disbursed by local governments to mitigate greenhouse gasses (GHG) and build resilience.

UULM-MD c/o UU Church of Annapolis 333 Dubois Road Annapolis, MD 21401 410-266-8044,

www.uulmmd.org info@uulmmd.org www.facebook.com/uulmmd www.Twitter.com/uulmmd

This Act recognizes the following. The use of fossil fuels is driving climate change. Changing the trajectory of climate change requires incentivizing significant reductions in the use of fossil fuels. Increasing the cost of the fuels is the most effective way to accomplish this. This bill will benefit the very communities who have suffered disproportionately greater damage from the use of fossil fuels and will receive significant remedy from the fees. It will also hold the fossil fuel industries accountable for the harm that they have done and continue to do without bearing any of the costs to clean up their byproducts. You wouldn't allow your child to continually trash your house, why should we not expect the same of a multi-billion dollar industry? It all boils back to fairness, how can there be justice and equity if one part of society is reaping all of the benefits, while another is paying all of the costs? This bill is just one step closer to solving that disparity.

Please keep us on the right and moral path towards a livable climate and a sustainable world. We owe it to our children.

We support this bill and recommend a FAVORABLE report in committee.

Phil Webster, PhD

Lead Advocate for Climate Change UULM-MD

SB0135_CCEJ_MLC_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY FOR SB0135 CLIMATE CRISIS AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACT

Bill Sponsor: Senator Kramer
Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Justice
Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition
Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair
Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0135 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing. The Climate Justice Wing is comprised of Environmental Justice groups, Faith groups, and Environmental Activists, with over 50 groups throughout the state. We represent the voices of constituents who share our concern over the harm that reliance on fossil fuels has wreaked in Maryland.

Our Coalition members strongly approve of measures to reduce Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions to zero as quickly as possible. We believe that the state should take an aggressive stance in moving in this direction.

This bill strikes a very good balance between aggressive climate policy that will help us achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045, and supporting those communities that have been most impacted by the dirty energy policies that we are trying to leave behind. It also takes a somewhat poetic approach in making the very entities who have become rich by flooding our state with fossil fuels to fund our transition to clean energy.

We consider this bill a companion to SB0528, the Climate Solutions Now Act, since that bill's robust and bold attack on greenhouse gases would be even easier to implement with additional funds. We believe that the fossil fuel companies who have for decades knowingly caused the climate crisis that we are currently experiencing, should be the ones to help reverse it. They have all touted the fact that they are spending billions to reverse the effects of climate change, but it seems that their efforts are not really effective and are designed to actually make our reliance on fossil fuels even greater. We think the state of Maryland would do a much better job of investing in reducing greenhouse gases than the fossil fuel industry.

The bill places a fee on fossil fuel products coming into the state and cleverly prohibits the entities who must pay the fee to then turn around and pass the fee on to consumers. The fee will escalate over time to drive home the point that fossil fuels are not our future and that companies supporting that industry should abandon it as soon as possible.

The monies that are collected from the carbon fee will then be used to fund green infrastructure projects and provide support to low-income households and energy intensive trade exposed businesses

affected by the change to cleaner energy sources. The funds will also be directed towards municipalities with environmental justice populations, which we enthusiastically support.

This will have the effect of changing our course to a cleaner future while having the polluters pay for it. They have made their fortunes on the backs of Marylanders for decades. We believe it is time they gave back.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

350 Baltimore
350 Montgomery County
Adat Shalom Climate Action
Assateague Coastal Trust
Audubon Naturalist Society
Casa de Maryland
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church
CHEER
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
Chispa MD
Clean Air Prince Georges
Climate Law & Policy Project
Climate Parents of Prince Georges
Climate Solutions
Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis
Climate XChange - Maryland
Coalition For Smarter Growth
Columbia Association Climate change and
Concerned Citizens Against Industrial Cafos
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County
Echotopia
Environmental Justice Ministry
Frack Free Frostburg
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
Howard County Indivisible
Howard County Sierra Club
Labor for Sustainability
Laurel Resist
Maryland Environmental Health Network
Maryland Legislative Coalition
Maryland NAACP State Conference, Environmental Justice Committee
Maryland Poor People's Campaign
MCPS Clean Energy Campaign
MD Campaign for Environmental Human Rights
Mid-Atlantic Earth Holders
Mid-Atlantic National Parks Conservation Association
Ministry of Maryland
MoCo DCC
Montgomery Countryside Alliance

Montgomery County Faith Alliance for
Mountain Maryland Movement
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
Potomac Conservancy
sustainability advisory committee
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
Talbot Rising
The Climate Mobilization Montgomery County
The Nature Conservancy
Unitarian Universalist Legislative
Wicomico NAACP
WISE

SB0135_Chris_Apple_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Christopher Apple

Position: FAV

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BILL SB0135 - FAVORABLE
Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act

TO: Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and
members of the Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee

FROM: Chris Apple
7001 Cradlerock Farm Court
Columbia, MD 21045
District 13

Feb 15, 2022

Maryland has long been on the forefront of climate responsibility, and has made excellent strides towards reducing its carbon footprint. Unfortunately, recent studies show that our current level of effort is insufficient to avoid the worst effects of climate change.¹ As the global situation grows more dire, urgent and powerful action is needed.

This bill will provide a vital acceleration of Maryland's green energy plans. Net-negative carbon emissions is a laudable goal and should be the benchmark for any new law attempting to limit the effects of climate disasters.

Ultimately it is our descendants who will bear the consequences of climate change. This bill represents the best chance at providing them with a safer and more prosperous planet. I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report for SB 135. Thank you.

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/09/climate/climate-change-report-ipcc-un.html>

Copy of SB135-ccej - Finance-FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Diana Younts

Position: FAV



Committee: Finance

Testimony on: SB135 - Climate Crisis & Environmental Justice Act

Organization: MLC Climate Justice Wing

Submitting: Diana Younts, Co-Chair

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 15, 2022

Dear M. Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today. The MLC Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on SB135. This bill sets a target of reducing Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions 100% by 2040 (with interim targets) and imposes two types of polluter, non-pass through, fossil-fuel fees: 1) a Building Heat fee; and 2) a transportation fuel fee.

Further, using the revenue generated through the polluter fees, the bill creates two funds:

- 1) The Climate Crisis Infrastructure Fund that: a) invests in initiatives to improve the health and welfare of Marylanders, 50% of which shall be invested in projects that are directly located within and provide meaningful benefits to environmental justice communities; and b) up to 5% of the monies shall be to provide technical assistance, capacity, and planning tools to county and municipal governments for mitigation and resilience projects; and
- 2) Climate Crisis Benefits that a) receives 50% of the revenue from the polluter fees; and b) helps low and moderate income households and energy intensive trade-exposed businesses to protect them from financial harm.

SB135 thus holds polluters responsible for the damage they have caused and provides protection for our most vulnerable families and communities and for all Marylanders.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

MLC Climate Justice Wing:

Assateague Coastal Trust
Maryland Legislative Coalition
MD Campaign for Environmental Human Rights
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
WISE
Frack Free Frostburg
Mountain Maryland Movement

Howard County Indivisible
Howard County Sierra Club
Columbia Association Climate change and sustainability advisory committee
CHEER
Climate XChange - Maryland
Mid-Atlantic Field Representative/
National Parks Conservation Association
350 Montgomery County
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
The Climate Mobilization Montgomery County
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
Audubon Naturalist Society
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church
Environmental Justice Ministry
Coalition For Smarter Growth
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County
MCPS Clean Energy Campaign
MoCo DCC
Potomac Conservancy
Casa de Maryland
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
Clean Air Prince Georges
Laurel Resist
Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
Concerned Citizens Against Industrial Cafos

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
Chispa MD
Climate Law & Policy Project
Maryland Poor Peoples Campaign
Labor for Sustainability
The Nature Conservancy
Clean Air Prince Georges
350 Baltimore
Maryland Environmental Health Network
Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis
Talbot Rising
Adat Shalom Climate Action
Chesapeake Earth Holders
Climate Parents of Prince Georges
Echotopia
Maryland NAACP State Conference,
Environmental Justice Committee

SB0135 2022_Jill Huppert_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Hope Clark

Position: FAV

Submission date 2/11/2022

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 Jill Huppert and I live in District 2. 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 fuel is 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,

Jill S Huppert, MD MPH
513-602-4026
3122 Grindon Ave , Baltimore MD 21214

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

CXC- Fav - SB0135 (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Hope Clark

Position: FAV



January 14, 2022

BILL: SB0135
TITLE: Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act
POSITION: SUPPORT
HEARING DATE: February 15, 2022
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
SPONSOR: Senator Benjamin Kramer

Dear Senate Committee on Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs,

My name is Jonah Kurman-Faber and I serve as Research Director for Climate XChange, a national nonprofit organization that provides research and technical assistance on state climate policy. I am submitting testimony in favor of passing Senate Bill 135, the Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act.

SB 135 provides substantial, new vital revenue that the state of Maryland needs in order to meet legally binding greenhouse gas reduction goals, create new business and workforce opportunities, and improve the health and safety of all communities. If passed, we project that SB 135 will generate over \$500 million per year in additional funding for transportation infrastructure, grid modernization, energy efficiency, workforce development, and other vital measures of the clean energy transition.

Many existing climate efforts in Maryland rely on existing budgets and appropriations, and new capital resources are required to hit the state's legally binding greenhouse gas reduction targets. SB 135 is a progressive, rather than regressive, funding source, and dedicates substantial new investment to environmental justice communities in Maryland. The bill also is compatible with other legislative efforts in the state around climate justice, environmental justice, and public infrastructure.

For example, SB 528, the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, establishes new capital funds and grant fund programs for clean energy development, workforce development, net-zero schools, and other priorities. SB 528 appropriates an annual total of \$17 million to such programs, whereas SB 135 raises nearly 30 times the revenue for the same purposes. The programs established by SB 528 would be qualified recipients of revenue raised by the Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act.

For the reasons stated above, and for the fiscal health, public health, and environmental goals of Maryland, I urged the passage of Senate Bill 135. Thank you and please reach out with any further questions.

Regards,
Jonah Kurman-Faber
Research Director, Climate XChange
jonah@climate-xchange.org

Cc: Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

SB0135 Nina Cardin MDEHRA Fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Hope Clark

Position: FAV



Feb 14th, 2022

HB0171
SB0135

Favorable

The Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act addresses head on the challenge of equitably reducing greenhouse gas emissions without burdening those who are the least responsible for these emissions and those who are the least able to afford the cost of reducing those emissions.

Through fossil fuel fees, the act would establish revenue for two separate funds for green infrastructure, and household and employer benefits.

Infrastructure Fund

50% of the total revenue will go to the Climate Crisis Infrastructure Fund to invest in initiatives that improve the health and welfare of the citizens of the State.

At least 50% of this Infrastructure account shall be invested in projects that are directly located within and provide meaningful benefits to environmental justice communities.

Up to 5% of the Infrastructure account shall provide technical assistance, capacity, and planning tools to county and municipal governments to develop qualified local climate plans and investment proposals.

Up to 50 % of the Infrastructure account shall be disbursed to qualified county and municipal governments for projects to mitigate GHG's and build resilience.

Benefits Fund

50% of the total revenue will go to the Climate Crisis Benefits Fund directed to low- and moderate-income households and energy-intensive trade-exposed (EITE) businesses to protect them from financial harm.

The bill is equitable and effective.
We urge your support

Nina Beth Cardin

MD Campaign for Environmental Human Rights

SB0135- POLICY FOUNDATION OF MARYLAND-FAV.pdf

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Position: FAV



Policy Foundation of Maryland

Committee: Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs & Budget & Taxation

Testimony on: SB0135-- Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act (CCEJ)

SPONSOR: **Senator Benjamin Kramer**

Organization: Policy Foundation of Maryland, Rebuild Maryland Coalition

Person Submitting: **Sarahia Benn (Executive Dir.)**

Position: **Favorable**

Hearing Date: February 15, 2022

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing testimony today in support of SB0135. Policy Foundation of Maryland is a grassroots organization focused on State and County level legislation and policies that impacts Black, Brown, marginalized, low income communities and veterans affairs. Environmental legislation is of massive importance to these communities particularly due to how impacted these communities have been historically and currently.

Why is CCEJ IMPORTANT?:

- Reduces harm & protects Marginalized, most vulnerable, and low income Marylanders
- Embrace the green economy
- Transition away from fossil fuel jobs to high paying green energy jobs
- CCEJ will place a fee on all imported fossil fuels.
- The fossil fuel fee on fossil fuels shall be collected at the first point of sale and by the entity transporting the fossil fuel into the state.
- Generate millions of dollars for investment in clean energy infrastructure
- Allow local jurisdictions to invest up to approximately \$500,000 dollars in a climate plan

Objectives of the CCEJ:

- Reduce emissions 60% from 2006 levels by 2030;
- Reduce emissions 100% from 2006 levels by 2040; and
- Achieve negative emissions after 2040.
- Two funds will be created with the revenue generated from the pollution fees:: Household & Employer Benefit Fund And Climate Crisis Infrastructure fund
- CCEJ requires the Department of the Environment to establish a Climate Crisis Council to develop a plan to achieve emissions reductions targets.
- Climate Crisis Council will establishes the Fee and Investment Initiative that will help fund actions to reduce emissions, enhance resilience to climate impacts, and ensure an equitable transition for workers and communities that depend on fossil fuels

Low income neighborhoods have experienced the negative impacts of pollution over centuries due to industrialization and other factors in the environment. [Pollution](#) and the effects of pollution in studies about [emissions, poor air quality](#), lead poisoning, and other environmental crises impact children's educational outcomes. Any type of exposure to pollutants in schools or the general environment can negatively impact on mental state, test scores, their ability to focus, and/or consistently attend school.

Locally just a few years ago Harford County was proposing to build a tire pyrolysis recycling factory located within 5 miles of 6 schools in Black, Brown, and marginalized communities and schools. It was defeated but imagine if there had been CCEJ in place the fight would not have been so overwhelming and costly to local activists who are under-resourced.

The major benefit of CCEJ is that these generational issues that have long gone unaddressed can now receive help through the CCEJ Climate Crisis Benefit Fund & Infrastructure Fund to address the harm to the marginalized communities and the communities schools.

Air pollution from burning fossil fuels is causing massive health impacts in marginalized communities such as cancer, environmental asthma, lung disease, and heart disease. There are hotspots clearly located all over Maryland that have high incidences of these health impacts based on excessive air pollution. CCEJ

would address the inequity in addressing Communities of color, low income and moderate communities that are disproportionately negatively impacted by such environmental attacks through air pollution and other environmental crises.

Finally, CCEJ will provide funding to low and moderate income families as well as local governments to create and implement climate action plans to reduce GHG emissions. This bill economically as well as environmentally addresses a significant portion of Maryland's climate problem. It also begins to address the many centuries of climate crisis inequity in Marginalized communities.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Sarahia Benn
(Policy Foundation of Maryland, Rebuild Maryland Coalition)

(Dedicated to Black History month)

“We can be joyful while we’re trying to change the world. As long we’re also aware that you can’t get away with things just by doing the easy stuff. You actually have to challenge certain things and put yourself in uncomfortable positions, often risking things in order to achieve real change.”

[Karen Washington, Community Gardener, The Bronx, NY](#)

SB0135_Alyson Jones_FAV .pdf

Uploaded by: Hope Clark

Position: FAV

Feb 14th, 2022

HEARING DATE: 2/15/2022

BILL: SB0135
TITLE: Climate Crisis and Education Act
SPONSOR: Senator Benjamin Kramer
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Budget and Taxation

Dear Distinguished Members of both Committees,

My name is Alyson and I currently live in district 22.

I would like to voice my support for the Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice act. We need action when it comes to climate change. I've lived my whole life knowing about climate change, what it is, what it does, and what it will be if we do not act.

When I called my Representative about SB135, I was told about Bill SB-528. I think it is a great bill, but it needs to be stricter in certain areas; areas that CCEJ covers. SB135, the CCEJ Act plans on actively investing in the green economy, local government, and directly invests in the people who have been most affected by climate change.

SB - 528 wants to make sure Maryland buildings and schools run cleaner with electricity and SB135, the CCEJ Act is a bill that can ensure this happens efficiently, effectively, and practically by contributing to the revenue needed to implement these demands.

Both bills target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60% by 2030 based on 2006 levels. The CCEJ however aims for even lower emissions than what was seen in 2006 by 2040. They plan to reduce emissions down 100% from levels seen in 2006 by 2040 and with Zero emissions after 2040.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Alyson Jones
Member of the Citizens' Climate Lobby Mid Atlantic Chapter
202-413-5468

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

SB0135_Solar Mowing_Fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Hope Clark

Position: FAV

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

SB135 _Roslyn Watts_Fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Hope Clark

Position: FAV

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 Roslyn Watts and I live in District 37, Subdistrict 37B

Smithville is home to a predominately African American community that was founded and populated by a small group of first- and second-generation freed slaves and their descendants.

The community is nestled inland a few miles away from the Chesapeake Bay and has been **battered by the effective of climate change, sea level rise and environmental justice issues.** Historically, this community was graced with beautiful woodland, timber, and good soil for family gardens. **However, due to marsh encroachment, increased tidal flooding and the invasive migration of phragmites, property owners have lost large portions of their land.**

When community members sought to remedy the effectives of the marsh migration, and effective of the phragmites, they were prohibited from doing anything; being told **“these were protected vegetation and protected habitats.”** Over time, coupled with sea level rise, the homes of my people, our properties and **including our historic family cemetery is in imminent danger due to increased flooding, tidal changes, basically, the erosion and loss of land.**

Research from universities, environmentalist and local authorities indicate that **we need further studies and remediation.** The Climate Action Plans that the CCEJ will provide funding for, are needed to preserve these properties and human habitats. **Mediation is doable, but costly, so the revenue from this bill is “KEY” for us to survive.** We believe that we can save our land and our cemetery, but actions and resources must be made available **quickly and decisively.**

Climate change is affecting our world. This bill develops the resources we need to address these issues.

Roslyn Watts
Member
Families of Smithville Road, Inc.
443-521-6274

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

SB135 Raaga Katta_Fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Hope Clark

Position: FAV

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

SB135_Poor Peoples Campaign_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Hope Clark

Position: FAV

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 Susan Allen and I live in District 30 and I represent the Maryland Poor Peoples Campaign. The Campaign supports the CCEJ Act because the Benefit and Infrastructure Funds provide direct payments to low-wealth families and communities. The information below shows how these families have been disproportionately harmed by fossil-fuel pollution and resulting climate extremes.

Other direct-payment initiatives have lifted poor families and enabled their communities to rebuild. An example is the Federal Child Tax Credit that lifted 40% of children out of poverty.

Our Campaign demands similar direct funding to fossil-fuel (GHG) pollution harmed MD families and communities.

In 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 Climate Crisis Benefit Fund and the Infrastructure Fund will give back to communities and their schools that have been harmed the most.

[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/moderate income families and local governments to create and implement climate action plans to reduce GHG emissions. This bill is the economic solution to our climate problem: (1) Provides the funding needed for resiliency and (2) Supports the most vulnerable people and businesses in the necessary transition from a fossil fuel economy to a sustainable economy.

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

Susan Allen, Policy Co-Chair of the Maryland Poor Peoples Campaign

Your telephone number: 410-626-2068

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

SB135_Shondra Dawson_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Hope Clark

Position: FAV

HEARING DATE: 2/15/2022

BILL: SPONSOR: Senator Benjamin Kramer

TITLE: Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act (CCEJ)

POSITION: Favorable

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs & Budget and Taxation

Members of the Committee:

It has recently been brought to my attention that there is a bill being introduced for legislation titled, The Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act (CCEJ), a bill I hope will define redemption by a careless century to the coming generations...

The bill proposes that private corporations given unprecedented license to despoil our land, air, and water be made to pay the public who suffer the damages of their brutal enterprises. Indeed, as the damages increase, so would the payments, until mercifully, future industry projections will show what common decency could not: destroying the fruits of the earth is ultimately unprofitable.

I am reminded of what is referred to as the "Tragedy of the Commons." Enclosure, or the sale of common land, began in England during the 16th and 17th centuries. The Enclosure laws were feverishly fought against by the common people from the onset, whose restricted access to the natural resources of those lands threatened their quality of labor and life. However, under a monarchy, the Enclosure laws only stretched and strengthened to become a harbinger of the Industrial Revolution that would rapine its way across the whole of the Western hemisphere. Capitalism is the incorrigible grandchild of the Tragedy of the Commons and its insistence on illimitable growth at any cost...

To this day, our modern myopia still recognizes this state of affairs as private enterprise: but for the people who are forced to manage what they do not control, there is nothing private about it.

The Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act has done all the work for the Committee by stating the gravest reasons for passing this bill in its very title. I urge you to demonstrate your position of authority where it is most necessary: for the general welfare of both the land and its people. Protect the Commons.

Respectfully,

Shondra Mirelle Dawson

Resident of District 5- Maryland

Poor Peoples' Campaign member

Mayor Day SB 135 FAV Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Jacob Day

Position: FAV



City of
Salisbury
Jacob R. Day, Mayor

15 February 2022

Committees: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs & Budget and Taxation

Testimony on: SB 135

Position: Favorable

Re: Favorable support for SB 135 – *Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act*

Dear Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs and Budget and Taxation Committees,

As you consider the merits of **SB 135**, I ask that you vote to give this legislation a **Favorable** Committee report.

The City of Salisbury supports SB 135, which will significantly reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions. If enacted, this bill will help to safeguard our environment while acting in the best interests of Maryland residents and local governments by generating investments in clean energy infrastructure.

SB 135 will:

- Reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 100% of 2006 levels by 2040
- Introduce polluter pays fossil fuel fees with a no-pass through provision
- Generate revenue for a Climate Crisis Infrastructure Fund

As the Capital of the Eastern Shore, residents of our city have first-hand experience in contending with the detrimental effects of chronic climate change. Whether faced with soil erosion in our tidal areas or the heavy flooding that has become synonymous with major storms, although we remain versatile, we must take meaningful action as we respond to environmental hazards, including that of the ever-increasing levels of greenhouse gas emissions that threaten the health of our Eastern Shore. Here in Salisbury, we continue to promote sustainable practices through the transformative work of our Green Team, whose members work to develop projects and policies that foster an atmosphere of social and environmental responsibility across Salisbury and the Lower Eastern Shore.

In addition to effecting change through impactful climate action, this legislation will also establish a Climate Crisis Infrastructure Fund which will enable municipalities to further reduce emissions while bolstering climate resilience efforts. SB 135 will help us to turn the tides of climate change while protecting the health of Maryland's natural resources and environment.

I ask for your **support** of this critical climate action legislation and request that you pass SB 135 out of Committee with a **FAVORABLE** report.

Respectfully,

Jacob R. Day
Mayor

WDC Testimony SB0135-2022_FINAL.pdf

Uploaded by: JoAnne Koravos

Position: FAV



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

P.O. Box 34047, Bethesda, MD 20827

www.womensdemocraticclub.org

SENATE BILL 135
Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act (CCEJ)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee – February 15, 2022
SUPPORT

Dear Members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony concerning an important priority of the **Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club (WDC)** for the 2022 legislative session. WDC is one of the largest and most active Democratic Clubs in our County with hundreds of politically active women and men, including many elected officials.

WDC urges the passage of SB135. The bill will establish greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals and assess GHG pollution fees and would distribute those benefits to households and employers in the State to mitigate the impact of fees under the initiative. The bill also funds activities for GHG reduction and sequestration, improvements in resiliency infrastructure, and the promotion of a just economic transition in the State.

Exposure to pollutants caused by the combustion of fossil fuels (carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, lead, hydrocarbons, and particulate matter) bears significant negative impacts on public health, including, and importantly, school age children's test scores, as certain pollutants have neuro toxic characteristics (e.g., lead contamination from diesel engine emissions).

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. Further, air pollution from burning fossil fuels is contributing to, and in certain cases worsening, cardio-pulmonary illnesses such as heart disease, asthma, lung disease, and cancer. The particulates in air pollution are a serious threat for pregnant women and the health of their babies. Reducing GHGs has been shown to dramatically improve air quality. Thus, we must transition to a clean economy sooner rather than later.

Presently our economy is driven by a product that is detrimental to our existence. Burning fossil fuel is warming our earth and causing all manner of environmental and weather pattern havoc. Leading economists and scientists around the world agree that putting a price on carbon is one of our best tools to deal with the changing climate.

More importantly, the CCEJ would give back to communities that have been harmed the most through two essential funding mechanisms: the Household and Employer Benefit Fund, and the Climate Crisis Infrastructure Fund. These funds would redistribute all fees assessed on fossil fuels that enter Maryland to:



MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

P.O. Box 34047, Bethesda, MD 20827

www.womensdemocraticclub.org

(1) provide a high degree of protection for low- and moderate-income households in the State and protect energy intensive trade-exposed employers in the State, and

(2) invest in clean energy and resiliency initiatives that improve the health and welfare of Marylanders, with particular emphasis on developing resilient infrastructure in underserved communities and protecting communities with high exposure to pollutants.

In essence, 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. Even more importantly, money distributed from the Household Benefit Account is not taxable income and excluded from household income for the purposes of determining eligibility for, or the level of, any form of public assistance.

Investments from the Climate Crisis Infrastructure Fund must also be designed to create local economic development and employment in the State. At least 50% of the money must be invested in projects that are located within and provide meaningful benefits to environmental justice populations. Finally, up to 5% of the money in the fund may also be used to provide technical assistance, capacity, and planning tools to local governments, as specified.

This bill is Maryland's 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.

This bill is clear about what it will accomplish and how it will work. For these reasons, the WDC urges a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB0135.

Respectfully,

Leslie Milano
President

sb135, climate crisis, justice, 2022.pdf

Uploaded by: Lee Hudson

Position: FAV



Delaware-Maryland Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Testimony prepared for the
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
and
Budget and Taxation Committee
on
Senate Bill 135
February 15, 2022
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to urge a public commitment to averting climate disaster. I am Lee Hudson, assistant to the bishop for public policy in the Delaware-Maryland Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are a faith community in three ELCA synods in every part of our State.

The ELCA identified greenhouse gases as environmental pollutants because of deleterious effects on climate in 1993. ("Caring for Creation," ELCA 1993 assembly)

We support accelerating the measure of and the rate at which GGRs are achieved because the rate of climate change is exceeding previous calculations.

We support more restrictive allowances for greenhouse gas emissions.

We support **Senate Bill 135** and implore a favorable report.

Lee Hudson

sb 135 Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice 20

Uploaded by: Linda Boyd

Position: FAV



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

SUPPORT

SB 135

Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act

2/15/2022

Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, my name is Rev. Linda Boyd and I submit this testimony on behalf of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland. The Maryland diocese represents 110 parishes and over 45,000 parishioners. The Episcopal Diocese of MD supports SB 135.

We believe that God calls us to care for creation and to support policies that promote a healthy environment. The measures proposed by this Bill take considerable steps toward providing a healthy environment for all Marylanders, and toward protecting God's creation, planet Earth. Ensuring healthy communities expresses our love for our neighbors and helps to promote a world in which all individuals in Maryland can live and flourish.

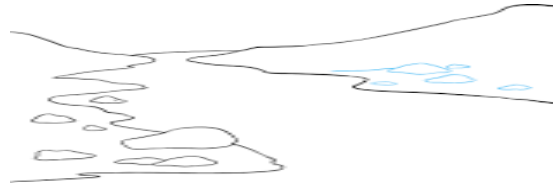
The Episcopal Church calls for policies that mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, promote sustainable energy, the safe and just use of natural resources, and supports communities impacted by a lack of environmental stewardship. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality aligns with the broader environmental equity and social justice goals around Creation Care supported and encouraged by the Episcopal Church.

We encourage a favorable report.

GEHM testimony.135.support.pdf

Uploaded by: Lisa Hemmer

Position: FAV



GLEN ECHO HEIGHTS MOBILIZATION

Committee: Education, Health & Environmental Affairs; Budget and Taxation
Testimony on: SB135 - “Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act”
Organization: Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
Submitted By: Lisa Hemmer, Member
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 15, 2022

Glen Echo Heights Mobilization – a community organization in Montgomery County Maryland with 50 members or more -- submits testimony in support of SB135, a bill that would provide funds for low and moderate income families as well as local governments to create and implement climate action plans to reduce GHG emissions.

The Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act would:

- Provide an economic solution to climate issues in vulnerable communities.
- Provide funding needed for resiliency to support vulnerable populations and businesses as Maryland makes the necessary transition from a fossil fuel economy to a sustainable economy.
- Establish a Climate Crisis Benefit Fund and the Infrastructure Fund to support heavily impacted communities, including their schools.

We support this legislation for the following reasons:

- In August 2021, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change declared a “code red for humanity” due to rapidly worsening climate change. Its report declared that the planet has delayed curbing their fossil-fuel emissions for so long that the sort of impacts that the planet is experiencing from extreme storms, fires and floods, and heatwaves will continue. Nonetheless, there is a short window for preventing the most harrowing future.
- Studies show that the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions extend from the pollutant impact on the individual body to livability on the planet.
- **This bill would acknowledge science and equity.**

Conclusion. This bill ensures Maryland’s commitments toward environmental sustainability. We urge a favorable report by this Committee.

SB135-CCEJA-EHEA-GCAN-FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Lore Rosenthal

Position: FAV



Committee: Senate - Hearing (Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs)
Testimony on: SB135 - Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act
Organization: Greenbelt Climate Action Network
Submitting: James Lawson
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: 2/15 at 1:00 p.m.

Dear Chairman and Committee Members:

The Greenbelt Climate Action Network (GCAN) is writing in support of **SB135 - Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act**. GCAN's mission is to educate residents about climate change, "systemic" solutions, how they can change their behaviors to be more sustainable, and take personal, local, systemic, and political action.

SB135 - Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act will make considerable progress to a decarbonized future that will reduce the amount of GHGs that accelerate climate change. Net-zero carbon emissions mean that we stop burning fossil fuels and use solar, wind, and other energy sources that do not release GHGs.

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. These shifts may be natural, but since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels (like coal, oil, and gas) which produces heat-trapping gases. - The United Nations

If the world is to prevent climate change, we must get to net-zero carbon emissions, which requires every citizen to change their way of life. Net-zero carbon emissions will require sacrifice from everyone. It will be challenging to get people to stop doing what they have done for centuries if we impose a significant drop in people's standard of living. This bill is not coercive and does not mandate draconian measures that will invite resistance. This bill sets reasonable goals and timelines to shift to renewable forms of energy. This bill provides time to adapt to the bill goals by 2040 when statewide greenhouse gas emissions are net negative.

All credible experts believe wind and solar energy will be cheaper than fossil fuels in the future. When the citizens of Maryland discover that renewable energy is more affordable than fossil fuels and does not damage their health, their resistance will dissipate. Unfortunately, low-income people are more negatively affected by climate change than those who have the income to adapt to climate change. This bill has carrots and a small stick.

This bill imposes a greenhouse gas pollution fee on certain fuels. This provision will remove the subsidy to coal, oil, and gas producers. The money collected will go to helping low-income people shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

This bill only applies to the State of Maryland. If we make this bill law, it will encourage other states to pass similar legislation. This bill is one of the most important bills you will vote on this year.

"This legislation will require the State to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through various measures, including altering statewide greenhouse gas emissions reduction requirements so that after 2040 statewide greenhouse gas emissions are net negative; requiring the Department of the Environment to adopt a plan for the reduction of statewide greenhouse gas emissions by December 31, 2022; establishing a Climate Crisis Council to develop a plan to meet the reduction targets set out in the Act; and establishing a greenhouse gas pollution fee on certain fuels." - SB135 - Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act

This bill has many upsides and no downsides. People can adapt to change when it happens over ten years. People can adapt to change when it does not create an unbearable cost to their standard of living. If we do nothing one day, the effects of climate change will be so intolerable, and we will have to make changes overnight, and by then, it may be too late.

For all these reasons, we recommend a FAVORABLE report for **SB135 - Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act** in committee.

Sincerely,

James R. Lawson, volunteer

Greenbelt Climate Action Network

SB0135LyndaDeWitt_Fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Lynda DeWitt

Position: FAV

Submission Date: 2/14/2022

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

SEIU Local 500 - SB 135 - Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Moira Cyphers

Position: FAV



Hearing Testimony February 15, 2022
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
Service Employees International Union, Local 500, CtW, CLC

Senate Bill 135: Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act

SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

On behalf of the 20,000 working people in our region represented by SEIU Local 500, we offer our strong support for **Senate Bill 135**. Our union represents the support staff at the Montgomery County Public School system, Family Child Care Providers, Faculty at institutions of higher education, staff at non-profits, and many other working people across the region.

Greenhouse gas emissions are a primary contributor to climate change, and we are approaching a point of no return. We've seen it in the rising sea levels impacting Maryland's coastline, historic inland flooding, and our increasing daily temperatures.

The impacts of climate change are not limited to the weather and the land. For two decades we've known about the direct impact fossil fuel combustion and emissions has had on Maryland communities. In 2005, the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health published findings that Black communities in Maryland were disproportionately exposed to pollutants and airborne toxins -increasing their likelihood for life-long, chronic illnesses. More recently, a nationwide study from Harvard in 2020 looked at a similar concern: the soot emanating from vehicle tailpipes and power plant smokestacks. Small differences in pollution levels means impacted communities are 15% more likely to die from COVID-19 than those from places where the level is just one microgram per cubic meter less.

SEIU supports this legislation because environmental justice is critical to ensuring our members and their families are protected in the communities where they live. In practice, SEIU Local 500 backs our working people to ensure environmental justice in the workplace. Chemical exposures, ventilation, heating, cooling, and Covid-19 risks are some of the challenges workers face today in America. Our frontline workers deserve to breathe clean air where they live. This legislation proposes critical changes that will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, hold the fossil fuel industry accountable, and includes important protections to ensure that polluters are held responsible and Marylanders are not left footing the bill.

SB 135 promises to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reinvest in the communities most harmed by fossil fuel pollution by combining public health protections with environmental justice projects to provide meaningful benefits to Marylanders statewide. For these reasons, SEIU Local 500 supports this legislation.

MD Climate Crisis.pdf

Uploaded by: nanci Wilkinson

Position: FAV

Committee: Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

Legislation: SB 0135 Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act (CCEJ)

Organization: Environmental Justice Ministry Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

Position: Favorable

Hearing: 2/15/2022

Dear Members of the Committee,

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.

For these reasons and more, the Environmental Justice Ministry urges a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB0135.

Respectfully submitted,

Nanci Wilkinson

Environmental Justice Ministry

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

SB0135-FAV-DTMG-2-15-22.pdf

Uploaded by: Olivia Bartlett

Position: FAV



Olivia Bartlett, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team

Committee: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

Testimony on: SB0135 – Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 15, 2022

Bill Contact: Senator Benjamin Kramer

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grass-roots organization with more than 3000 members across all districts in Montgomery County as well as a number of nearby jurisdictions. DTMG supports legislation and activities that keep residents healthy and safe in a clean environment and which promote equity across all our diverse communities. DTMG strongly supports SB0135 because it directly addresses these fundamental goals by reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and promoting environmental justice across Maryland.

Climate change due to global warming driven by man-made GHG emissions is already here. Maryland already has nuisance flooding, saltwater incursion on the Eastern Shore, high heat days, and storm surges on a regular basis. International experts have urged action on climate with increasing urgency in recent years for good reason: the consequences of not acting now will be very dangerous and very expensive for our children and grandchildren.

SB0135 addresses the climate crisis by setting a target of reducing Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions 100% by 2040 (with interim targets) and imposing two types of polluter non-pass through, fossil-fuel fees: a building heat fee and a transportation fuel fee. These fees will incentivize transition to use of clean renewable low and zero emission energy sources for buildings and transportation.

In addition, using the revenue generated through these polluter fees, SB0135 creates two funds that address environmental justice:

1. The Climate Crisis Infrastructure Fund will
 - invest in initiatives to improve the health and welfare of Marylanders, 50% of which will be invested in projects that are directly located within and provide meaningful benefits to environmental justice communities, and
 - provide technical assistance, capacity, and planning tools to county and municipal governments for mitigation and resilience projects.
2. The Climate Crisis Benefits fund will
 - receive 50% of the revenue from the polluter fees, and

- help low- and moderate-income households and energy intensive trade-exposed businesses to protect them from financial harm during the transition to zero-emission energy.

SB135 thus will bring Maryland's goals for reducing climate-warming greenhouse gas emissions into line with the scientific recommendations of the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. It will also hold polluters responsible for the damage they have caused and provide protection for all Marylanders, especially our most vulnerable families, businesses, and communities.

Therefore, DTMG strongly supports SB0135 and urges a Favorable vote on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Olivia Bartlett
Co-lead, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team
oliviabartlett@verizon.net
240-751-5599

SB 135_R.Jones 1199SEIU_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Stephanie Anderson

Position: FAV



**Testimony of Ricarra Jones, Political Director of 1199SEIU on
SB 135 Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act**

Position: FAVORABLE

February 15, 2022

Dear Chairman [Paul G. Pinsky](#), Chairman Guy Guzzone, Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

1199SEIU Healthcare Workers East is the largest healthcare union in the country with, over 450,000 members throughout Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Florida and Washington, D.C. **We fully support SB 135.**

SB 135 The Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act (CCEJ) would positively impact Marylanders on a number of crucial fronts with transformative, market-based solutions.

The CCEJ Act incentivizes the reduction of fossil fuel emissions, and its passage would put Maryland on a commonsense, practical pathway towards a sustainable, vibrant economy. It will generate billions of dollars for investment in clean energy infrastructure, while providing protective benefits to Maryland's trade-exposed small businesses and its most vulnerable populations: low- and moderate-income households.

The CCEJ Act would set new, statewide greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, using 2006 emission levels as a baseline, of 60% by 2030, 100% by 2040, and zero emissions after 2040, to the great benefit of Marylanders. These goals complement existing programs like the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

Notably, the CCEJ Act establishes two types of fossil fuel fees that include a polluter pays, no-pass through provision:

***Non-transportation fuel fee (Building Heat)** starts at \$15/ton, increases \$5/ton per year, and is capped at \$60/ton until the target is met.

***Transportation fuel fee (Gas)** starts at \$10/ton, increases \$3/ton per year, and is capped at \$37/ton until the target is met.

Further, the CCEJ Act establishes revenue from two separate funds:

*50% of the total revenue will go to the **Climate Crisis Infrastructure Fund** to invest in initiatives that improve the health and welfare of the citizens of the State, and at least 50% shall be invested in projects that are directly located within and provide meaningful benefits to environmental justice communities.

*50% of the total revenue will go to the **Climate Crisis Benefits Fund** to be directed to low- and moderate-income households and energy-intensive trade-exposed (EITE) businesses to protect them from financial harm.

Further, the CCEJ Act creates a Climate Crisis Council which, in coordination with the Maryland Department of the Environment, will develop a plan to achieve targets, hold periodic public meetings, administer schedules of fees, and delegate distribution of funds.

Without this Bill, every segment of our environment will continue to be threatened by the climate crisis including our health and economy and this can have devastating effects on future generations. An unhealthy climate threatens a sustainable environment and thus violates our right to life.

For these reasons, we **SUPPORT SB 135** and ask for a **FAVORABLE** report.

Sincerely,

Ricarra Jones
Maryland/DC Political Director
1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers- East
Cell: [443-844-6513](tel:443-844-6513)

SB0135_Maryland Citizens Climate Lobby_Favorable.p

Uploaded by: Thaddeus Waterman

Position: FAV

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 Thaddeus Waterman, I live in District 22 in Hyattsville Maryland, and I am honored to be representing the Maryland Leadership of Citizens' Climate Lobby. Citizens' Climate Lobby is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots climate advocacy organization. In Maryland our Chapters consist of over 3000 residents from across the State.

The Maryland Leadership of Citizens' Climate Lobby would like to voice our support for SB0135, the Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act.

As volunteers, we are passionate about advocating for solutions to the climate crisis we currently face. Our global dependency on burning fossil fuels is harming, and will continue to harm, not only the climate, but our health, economy, and future security. The unprecedented recent flooding in Ellicott City, the increased saltwater intrusion near our coast, and the increased beach erosion are examples of some negative effects we are already experiencing here in Maryland. In order to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change yet to come, we need to start drastically cutting our greenhouse gas emissions.

The Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act is part of the solutions we need. We specifically support SB0135 for two primary reasons.

The first reason is that a steadily increasing carbon price, like the one found in the Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act, is the single most cost-effective way to reduce carbon emissions at the scale and speed that is necessary; this is according to over [3500 economists](#). To elaborate, a steadily increasing carbon price encourages the entire free-market economy to innovate towards a low-carbon future, by using a market signal that can be planned for. We need policies in place, such as SB0135, that encourage everyone to share the burden of reducing our emissions.

The second reason we specifically support the Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act is it ensures support for the most vulnerable people and businesses as we make the necessary transition from a fossil fuel economy to a sustainable economy. The direct dividends to low and moderate income households will prevent them from shouldering the economic burden of that transition.

Overall, our local leadership team not only wants Maryland to enact policies that cut greenhouse gas emissions, but for Maryland to be a leader on climate policy that the rest of the nation can follow. The Maryland Leadership of Citizens Climate Lobby urges a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB0135. Respectfully submitted,

Thaddeus Waterman
Maryland State Coordinator, Citizens' Climate Lobby
1-434-806-2798
ThaddeusWWaterman@gmail.com

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

SB135_IndivisibleHoCoMD_FAV_VirginiaSmith (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Virginia Smith

Position: FAV



SB135 – Climate Crisis & Environmental Justice Act

Testimony before

Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 15, 2022

Position: Favorable

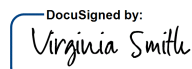
Mr. Chair, Madam Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Virginia Smith, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in support of SB135, which would protect the public health, economic well-being, and natural treasures of the State by setting new statewide, greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We appreciate the leadership of Senator Kramer in sponsoring this important legislation.

Climate change has long been a crisis that cannot be ignored, and Maryland now has the chance to make a real change, while still offering economic benefits to the state. The CCEJ (SB135) will aim to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions 60% by 2030 and 100% by 2040, using 2006 emission levels as the baseline. This ambitious goal will be met using market-based fossil fuel fees that will not be passed onto consumers. Two funds will also be established that benefit green infrastructure and low- and moderate-income households to protect them from financial harm. The added bonus of the infrastructure fund is that 50% of the account will be directed to projects that provide meaningful benefits to environmental justice communities.

For these reasons, we support SB135.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

DocuSigned by:

700ACD01D594405...
Virginia Smith
Columbia, MD 21044

Cecilia Plante - MLC Justice Wing_Fav - SB0135.pdf

Uploaded by: Wandra Ashley-Williams

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY FOR SB0135 CLIMATE CRISIS AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACT

Bill Sponsor: Senator Kramer
Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Justice
Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition
Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair
Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0135 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing. The Climate Justice Wing is comprised of Environmental Justice groups, Faith groups, and Environmental Activists, with over 50 groups throughout the state. We represent the voices of constituents who share our concern over the harm that reliance on fossil fuels has wreaked in Maryland.

Our Coalition members strongly approve of measures to reduce Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions to zero as quickly as possible. We believe that the state should take an aggressive stance in moving in this direction.

This bill strikes a very good balance between aggressive climate policy that will help us achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045, and supporting those communities that have been most impacted by the dirty energy policies that we are trying to leave behind. It also takes a somewhat poetic approach in making the very entities who have become rich by flooding our state with fossil fuels to fund our transition to clean energy.

We consider this bill a companion to SB0528, the Climate Solutions Now Act, since that bill's robust and bold attack on greenhouse gases would be even easier to implement with additional funds. We believe that the fossil fuel companies who have for decades knowingly caused the climate crisis that we are currently experiencing, should be the ones to help reverse it. They have all touted the fact that they are spending billions to reverse the effects of climate change, but it seems that their efforts are not really effective and are designed to actually make our reliance on fossil fuels even greater. We think the state of Maryland would do a much better job of investing in reducing greenhouse gases than the fossil fuel industry.

The bill places a fee on fossil fuel products coming into the state and cleverly prohibits the entities who must pay the fee to then turn around and pass the fee on to consumers. The fee will escalate over time to drive home the point that fossil fuels are not our future and that companies supporting that industry should abandon it as soon as possible.

The monies that are collected from the carbon fee will then be used to fund green infrastructure projects and provide support to low-income households and energy intensive trade exposed businesses

affected by the change to cleaner energy sources. The funds will also be directed towards municipalities with environmental justice populations, which we enthusiastically support.

This will have the effect of changing our course to a cleaner future while having the polluters pay for it. They have made their fortunes on the backs of Marylanders for decades. We believe it is time they gave back.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

350 Baltimore
350 Montgomery County
Adat Shalom Climate Action
Assateague Coastal Trust
Audubon Naturalist Society
Casa de Maryland
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church
CHEER
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
Chispa MD
Clean Air Prince Georges
Climate Law & Policy Project
Climate Parents of Prince Georges
Climate Solutions
Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis
Climate XChange - Maryland
Coalition For Smarter Growth
Columbia Association Climate change and
Concerned Citizens Against Industrial Cafos
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County
Echotopia
Environmental Justice Ministry
Frack Free Frostburg
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
Howard County Indivisible
Howard County Sierra Club
Labor for Sustainability
Laurel Resist
Maryland Environmental Health Network
Maryland Legislative Coalition
Maryland NAACP State Conference, Environmental Justice Committee
Maryland Poor People's Campaign
MCPS Clean Energy Campaign
MD Campaign for Environmental Human Rights
Mid-Atlantic Earth Holders
Mid-Atlantic National Parks Conservation Association
Ministry of Maryland
MoCo DCC
Montgomery Countryside Alliance

Montgomery County Faith Alliance for
Mountain Maryland Movement
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
Potomac Conservancy
sustainability advisory committee
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
Talbot Rising
The Climate Mobilization Montgomery County
The Nature Conservancy
Unitarian Universalist Legislative
Wicomico NAACP
WISE

Jeff Johnson - C.EarthHolders_FAV - SB135.pdf

Uploaded by: Wandra Ashley-Williams

Position: FAV

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

Telephone: 410-733-7012

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

Mike Tedwell - CCAN_Fav - SB0135.pdf

Uploaded by: Wandra Ashley-Williams

Position: FAV



January 14, 2022

BILL: SB0135
TITLE: Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act
POSITION: SUPPORT
HEARING DATE: February 15, 2022
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
SPONSOR: Senator Benjamin Kramer

Climate XChange Maryland and the Chesapeake Climate Action Network supports Senate Bill SB0135 - the **Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act (CCEJ)** that would incentivize the reduction in fossil fuel CO2 emissions by putting an increasing fee on fossil fuels at the point of entry into Maryland, while generating billions of dollars to reinvest in Maryland's economy.

The CCEJ protects the public health, economic well-being, and natural treasures of the State by setting a more aggressive statewide greenhouse gas-emission reduction goal of 60% by 2030 and 100% by 2040 using 2006 emission levels as a baseline. After 2040, statewide greenhouse gas-emission shall be net negative.

In addition, the CCEJ establishes two types of fossil fuel fees that include a polluter pays, no-pass through provision. The fee starts at \$15/ton for non-transportation fuel (building heat) and \$5/ton for transportation fuel fee (gas). The fees increase annually until they are capped at \$60/ton and \$37/ton respectively. The caps will continue to be charged until the target is met.

Revenue from the fee will generate billions of dollars for investment in clean energy infrastructure, while providing protective benefits to Maryland's trade-exposed small businesses and its most economically vulnerable populations.

Climate change is one of the greatest threats to our public health. The health effects of air pollution are huge. World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that around 7 million people die every year from exposure to fine particles in polluted air that penetrate deep into the lungs and cardiovascular system, causing diseases including stroke, heart disease, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases and respiratory infections, including pneumonia. "Air pollution threatens us all, but the poorest and most marginalized people bear the brunt of the burden," says Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO.

But, there's another dimension to the dual issues of climate change and air quality - **justice**. The communities hardest hit by climate change, those on the metaphorical frontline of sea level rise and extreme heat in Maryland, are the same that have historically experienced the worst air pollution in the state. Targeted communities, such as urban areas, low and moderate-income communities, and communities of color are disproportionately harmed by air pollutants. African American children have significantly higher rates of emergency department visits than other children. According to the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, African American children (ages 0-17) had the highest prevalence rates for asthma in Maryland than white children of the same age. They were "about 1.5 times more likely to have ever been diagnosed with asthma at some point in their lifetime compared to White, non-Hispanic children". Asthma attacks can be triggered by air pollution and Asthma can be life

threatening. It's time for Maryland to act now to reduce pollution in our air and protect the health of all the citizens of our State.

While addressing climate risks and mitigating their consequences must be among the state's top priorities, we must ensure that economically vulnerable communities be protected from any additional costs in the transition to a clean energy economy. They must not bear the brunt of the burden of implementing policy that will reduce/eliminate carbon in our environment. The CCEJ (SB0135) retains two provisions for benefits to low-to moderate income households. One is a cash rebate designed to protect low-to moderate-income residents and energy-intensive trade-exposed (EITE) businesses to protect them from financial harm. The other provision exists in the infrastructure fund that invest in projects that are directly located within and provide meaningful be allocates additional funds to communities historically pollution-burdened and underserved to .

For these reasons and more, Climate XChange and the Chesapeake Climate Action Network urges a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB0135.

Respectfully submitted,

Wandra Ashley-Williams
Maryland Regional Director
Climate XChange Maryland
410-914-8011

Mike Tidwell
Director
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
240-460-5838

Cc: Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

Shriya Reddy - RMC Student Movement_FAV - SB0135.p

Uploaded by: Wandra Ashley-Williams

Position: FAV

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

Wandra Ashley-Williams - CXC_Fav - SB0135.pdf

Uploaded by: Wandra Ashley-Williams

Position: FAV



January 14, 2022

BILL: SB0135
TITLE: Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act
POSITION: SUPPORT
HEARING DATE: February 15, 2022
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
SPONSOR: Senator Benjamin Kramer

Dear Senate Committee on Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs,

My name is Jonah Kurman-Faber and I serve as Research Director for Climate XChange, a national nonprofit organization that provides research and technical assistance on state climate policy. I am submitting testimony in favor of passing Senate Bill 135, the Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act.

SB 135 provides substantial, new vital revenue that the state of Maryland needs in order to meet legally binding greenhouse gas reduction goals, create new business and workforce opportunities, and improve the health and safety of all communities. If passed, we project that SB 135 will generate over \$500 million per year in additional funding for transportation infrastructure, grid modernization, energy efficiency, workforce development, and other vital measures of the clean energy transition.

Many existing climate efforts in Maryland rely on existing budgets and appropriations, and new capital resources are required to hit the state's legally binding greenhouse gas reduction targets. SB 135 is a progressive, rather than regressive, funding source, and dedicates substantial new investment to environmental justice communities in Maryland. The bill also is compatible with other legislative efforts in the state around climate justice, environmental justice, and public infrastructure.

For example, SB 528, the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, establishes new capital funds and grant fund programs for clean energy development, workforce development, net-zero schools, and other priorities. SB 528 appropriates an annual total of \$17 million to such programs, whereas SB 135 raises nearly 30 times the revenue for the same purposes. The programs established by SB 528 would be qualified recipients of revenue raised by the Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act.

For the reasons stated above, and for the fiscal health, public health, and environmental goals of Maryland, I urged the passage of Senate Bill 135. Thank you and please reach out with any further questions.

Regards,
Jonah Kurman-Faber
Research Director, Climate XChange
jonah@climate-xchange.org

Cc: Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

CLPP testimony SB135 021422.pdf

Uploaded by: Donald M. Goldberg

Position: FWA

Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Testimony on: SB0135 Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act

Submitted by: Donald M. Goldberg, Executive Director

Position: Favorable with amendment

Hearing Date: February 15, 2022

Climate Law & Policy Project strongly supports Senate Bill 135 and urges the Committee to issue a favorable report. We do, however, recommend an amendment, discussed below.

SB135 places a fee on fossil fuel combusted in the State to incentivize the reduction of fossil fuel CO₂ emissions. The fee escalates gradually, providing business and regulatory certainty to energy companies for future planning. It will generate billions of dollars for investment in clean energy infrastructure, while providing benefits (rebates) to protect Maryland's low- and moderate-income households and energy-intensive trade-exposed businesses.

CLPP has supported this bill in its various formulations since it was first introduced in 2018. We believe the 2022 version is the strongest yet. It will provide 50% of the fees it collects—several billion dollars over the next decade—to expand the use of clean energy resources and energy efficiency; create a cleaner, more just, and more efficient transportation sector; fund resiliency to the impacts of climate change and severe weather events; sequester carbon in forests, soils, and wetlands; and promote a just transition to clean energy.

While we fully support the passage of SB135, we recommend eliminating the restriction on passing the fee to end-use consumers. We understand that the no-pass-through provision is popular, but we believe this provision has two very important negative consequences: (1) it reduces or eliminates the price signal to incentivize end users (e.g., vehicle owners) to reduce consumption, and (2) it could have serious and perhaps fatal financial consequences for small, local fuel distributors who often operate on tight margins.

For example, according to last year's testimony, some gas stations are the first point of sale in the State for gasoline and diesel, meaning they would pay the fee but could not pass it along to their customers. It is our understanding that gas stations make about 1-2% profit on fuel sales. Most of their revenue comes from sale of ancillary products and services. A \$10 fee (the fee on transportation fuels in 2023) would raise gas prices by about \$0.09, which is roughly 3% of the retail cost and exceeds their profit margin. Putting these companies in financial jeopardy could make the bill vulnerable to a takings challenge.

While we believe this recommendation would make it stronger, we fully support Senate Bill 135 even if it is not modified and urge a favorable report.

2022-SB135 Carbon Tax-PHI UNF FINAL.pdf

Uploaded by: Alexis Gallagher

Position: UNF



February 15, 2022

112 West Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

**UNFAVORABLE - Senate Bill 135
Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act**

Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) and Delmarva Power & Light Company (Delmarva Power) oppose **Senate Bill 135 Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act**. Senate Bill 135 focuses on the concept of carbon pricing and fees as an efficient means to achieve greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions.

As a company with significant assets and critical energy infrastructure in Maryland, and as a major employer, Pepco and Delmarva Power have a responsibility to address our own GHG footprint while working to provide customers with safe, reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy through innovative and inclusive solutions. Pepco and Delmarva Power support efforts to decarbonize in a meaningful and affordable manner.

A carbon tax is typically applied at the point of generation so that energy producers have an incentive to use less carbon-intensive fuels. Senate Bill 135 imposes the GHG fee on all fossil fuels brought into the state for combustion and electricity used in the state that is generated by fossil fuels. A gas distribution company is required to pay the fee on behalf of all customers and prohibits the fee from being passed through as a direct cost to an end user of a fossil fuel or a customer of a distribution company, however Senate Bill 135 restricts the circumstances under which those dollars can be collected from customers. Because it is important that distribution companies have express authority to recover fees collected on behalf of customers, Pepco and Delmarva Power oppose Senate Bill 135 and respectfully request an unfavorable committee report.

Contact:

Alexis Gallagher
State Affairs Manager
609-412-6345
Alexis.gallagher@exeloncorp.com

Katie Lanzarotto
Senior Legislative Specialist
202-428-1309
Kathryn.lanzarotto@exeloncorp.com

Opposition of SB 135 - Climate Crisis and Environm

Uploaded by: Colby Ferguson

Position: UNF



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

February 15, 2022

To: Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Opposition of SB135 - Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony opposing SB 135. This bill starts out by requiring the State to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through various measures, including altering statewide greenhouse gas emissions reduction requirements so that the state has reduced by 60% by 2030 and then after 2040 statewide greenhouse gas emissions are net negative. It requires the Department of the Environment to adopt a plan for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by December 31, 2022. The bill establishes a Climate Crisis Council to develop a plan to meet the reduction targets set out in the Act. Lastly and most importantly, the bill establishes a greenhouse gas pollution fee on transportation and non-transportation petroleum-based fuels. The fees start at \$15/ton of carbon dioxide equivalent and ramps up to \$60/ton by 2032 for non-transportation fuels and is \$10/ton and ramps up to \$37/ton by 2032 for transportation fuels. This bill requires the added cost can't be passed through directly to the end user.

Even though this bill says that the added cost can't be passed down to the consumer, that seems highly unlikely with such fluctuation in gas prices now. This will drive up the cost of production for farmers as there are no viable alternatives to diesel tractors in the near future. The inability to garner a higher price for commodities sold, ensures that this increase in the cost of production will cause the farmer to make even less money on their crops as before. To add this to an already uncertain market and weather pattern, will undoubtedly cause farmers to go out of business.

MDFB Policy: We oppose the creation of a state carbon and/or Greenhouse Gas reduction tax/fee.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU RESPECTFULLY OPPOSES SB 135

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colby Ferguson'.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396

02.15.22 - SB0135 -- CLIMATE CRISIS AND ENVIRONMEN

Uploaded by: Donald Fry

Position: UNF



POSITION STATEMENT

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE
EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
SENATE BILL 135 – CLIMATE CRISIS AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACT
Sponsor – Senator Kramer**

February 15, 2022

**DONALD C. FRY
PRESIDENT & CEO
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

Position: Oppose

The Greater Baltimore Committee appreciates and supports the need to establish plans and standards to address the climate crisis. A collaborative approach between government, the private sector, and citizens is essential to meet the challenges being brought about by climate change. The GBC membership, comprised of businesses, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions, recognizes that our institutions cannot thrive with ecological and public health problems brought about by our changing environment. Extreme weather disasters are becoming more frequent, imposing real costs on companies and the communities they help support. Climate change threatens facilities and operations, supply and distribution chains, and access to electricity and water. It can also impair employees' access to employment and impacts customers from buying products or services.

Legislation passed in Maryland to address climate change should be ambitious but achievable, consist of an incremental framework that provides for significant greenhouse gas reductions over a reasonable period of time, and not impose excessive costs on businesses that can ill afford to meet the standards in the law or consumers of energy. Requirements should also not vary greatly from any federal requirements in order to prevent a patchwork of conflicting regulatory requirements. Provisions to provide generous financial assistance in the form of grants or low interest loans should be made available to businesses that are required to make costly investments in new technology. Unfortunately, Senate Bill 135 does not meet this description.

Senate Bill 135 calls for a 60% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. Although this is a laudable goal, it would appear that requiring such a reduction may be an overreach based on the best advice provided from the state's own environmental agency.

Current state law calls for a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. Last year, an analysis by Maryland's Department of the Environment confirmed that a 50% reduction by 2030 was feasible, with some additional policy decisions. The pending legislation calls for increasing the current statutory reduction by one-half, an increase from 40%-60%.

According to data from the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, a global climate policy think tank, setting the standard to reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions at 60% would be one of the most aggressive measures in the country. Although laudable and ambitious, this may create a standard that is not achievable.

Senate Bill 135 requires the owner of any existing commercial and multifamily residential buildings that have a gross floor area of 25,000 square feet or more, excluding parking, to begin measuring and reporting its direct

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

111 South Calvert Street • Suite 1700 • Baltimore, Maryland • 21202-6180

(410) 727-2820 • www.gbc.org

emissions in 2025. Building owners would need to report a 20 percent reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, a 40 percent reduction by 2035, and net-zero emissions by 2040.

For those buildings that cannot perform the required reductions, an unspecified fee would have to be paid for emissions exceeding the standards.

All new buildings would be prohibited from using natural gas or heating oil beginning in 2023. The legislation would also require all future construction to meet green energy code standards and cease fossil fuel hookups.

Natural gas is a critical fuel option for many Maryland based businesses. For years, businesses have relied heavily on natural gas to run their operations. Imposing restrictions on natural gas will likely lead to higher commodity cost. Reducing or removing accessibility to natural gas and forcing conversion to electric for commercial and industrial customers would present a considerable capital cost forcing businesses to invest significant funds to retrofit their operations.

The added cost of significantly altering business operations would jeopardize a company's ability to remain profitable and competitive. This would result in businesses looking to the state to subsidize the cost through financial assistance in the form of grants or low interest loans to meet the new state greenhouse gas standards.

The Greater Baltimore Committee believes that addressing climate concerns requires commitment from all parties, but the state must set reasonable and attainable goals and acknowledge realistic expectations regarding the cost of compliance for businesses. Commercial and industrial companies are important economic drivers and job creators in Maryland. Maryland businesses are still struggling from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic recession, and adding costly new requirements too quickly could hamper economic growth and job creation.

The Greater Baltimore Committee report entitled Gaining A Competitive Edge outlines eight key pillars that promote economic growth and job creation. At least three of the pillars that are identified in the report are challenged by the passage of the climate control legislation as introduced:

1) Government leadership that unites with business as a partner.

Maryland leaders must set a welcoming tone that communicates positive support for business, respect for the private sector as a partner, not an adversary, and reflects a strategic plan for business growth and job creation.

2) Regulatory policies that are streamlined, stable, and predictable.

Maryland must project to businesses within and outside the state that its government regulatory policies are reasonable, relevant, free of surprises or redundancy, and considerate of businesses' sense of urgency.

3) Competitive costs of doing business.

Public policies must reflect a government predisposition to nurture business growth and to avoid arbitrarily or disproportionately imposing additional overhead upon the business sector.

For the reasons set forth above, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges the Maryland General Assembly to give due consideration to the business competitiveness and cost concerns outlined above in the passage of climate change legislation. As such, the GBC respectfully requests that the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee report Senate Bill 135 unfavorably.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 67-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.

BGE - Senate Bill 135 - Climate Crisis and Environ

Uploaded by: John Quinn

Position: UNF

OPPOSE
Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs
02/15/2022

Senate Bill 135 - Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) opposes *Senate Bill 135 - Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act*. Senate Bill 135 would require the State to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 60% by 2030 and 100% by 2040. It would also establish the phase in of greenhouse house pollution fees ranging from \$10 to \$32/ton on transportation fossil fuels and \$15 to \$60/ton on non-transportation fossil fuels, collected at the fuels first point of sale by the entity transporting the fossil fuel into the state as well as by a gas utility for all natural gas that the utility distributes for combustion in the state. Statewide, these fees will cost \$200 million in 2023 and rise to over \$1 billion annually by 2027. The fees will fund a new “Benefit Fund” which will be used to protect low-income households and energy intensive, trade exposed employers.

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) is aggressively addressing our internal greenhouse gas operational emissions and is supportive of policy efforts to address climate change where we see ourselves, the largest combination natural gas and electric utility in the state, as a critical partner. However, the goals and mechanisms as currently outlined in Senate Bill 135 are likely to disadvantage Maryland economically while potentially not achieving the avoidance of climate change impacts that it seeks. Most specifically, the fee elements contained in the bill will not provide the needed incentives to broadly shift energy users permanently to lower emissions solutions and could have unintended consequences that drive residents and businesses to leave Maryland boundaries, in lieu of making energy use choice changes that reduce emissions.

BGE is a supplier of natural gas to nearly 700,000 customers and electricity to 1.3 million customers in Central Maryland. As we procure these commodities under the watchful oversight of the Maryland Public Service Commission, we follow state and federal mandated requirements which incorporate environmental and reliability concerns. We have limited additional influence on how the electricity is generated or how the natural gas is sourced, as we are currently directed to ensure lowest costs supplies for our customers. Generally, we cannot pass along a pollution fee cost to the emission generator who would respond to the economic incentive of a carbon price to reduce emissions. Separate state programs including the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and the Renewable Portfolio standard do influence a sub-set of electric generation sources within state boundaries, but not all energy supply comes from within the state.

Another element of the bill that has a particular concern for BGE is the prohibition on passing through the pollution fee to customers. The fee is intended to provide a price

signal to reduce consumption, but without providing a clear price signal to consumers, the result is unlikely to be realized. Even though the bill provides that BGE 'may' be able to pass it along if the Public Service Commission approves the fee as a prudently incurred cost of distribution, we object to any restriction. A state-imposed fee over which a utility has no choice to pay – similar to a tax – is by definition a prudently incurred cost and recovery should not be subject to the discretion of any particular interpretation of “prudently incurred’ taken by the PSC.

For these reasons, BGE requests an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 135.

BGE, headquartered in Baltimore, is Maryland's largest gas and electric utility, delivering power to more than 1.2 million electric customers and more than 655,000 natural gas customers in central Maryland. The company's approximately 3,400 employees are committed to the safe and reliable delivery of gas and electricity, as well as enhanced energy management, conservation, environmental stewardship and community assistance. BGE is a subsidiary of Exelon Corporation (NYSE: EXC), the nation's leading competitive energy provider.

SB135 submit.pdf

Uploaded by: Kirk McCauley

Position: UNF



WMDA/CAR Service Station and Automotive Repair Association

Chair: Paul G. Pinsky
Members of Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

Re SB 135
Position: In Opposition

July 1, 2022, gas prices will increase because of CPI and SUIT tax increase tied to retail price from previous 12 months, combined, that should be a whopper. To add a Fossil fuel fee in the form of \$10 dollars per metric ton Equivalent of CO2 would put a hardship on consumer and businesses. Another bill to drive up the cost of living in Maryland.

I know there will be some reimbursement, but when consumer pulls up to a pump, they will not have a state credit card in hand. Consumers that commute will be especially hit hard. Those that can, will shop across our borders for less expensive fuel and other consumer products that would normally be bought in our convenience stores and stations. To residents that live week to week this will be especially hard.

Service stations and convenience stores in Maryland which already has a higher gas tax to surrounding states will suffer as will tax collection for gas and store products. This could very well be the straw that broke the camel back for locations close to state borders.

I know the bill says fees cannot be passed along as a direct cost. Direct or indirect, costs will end up at the pump, retailer will only be passing along what come from up stream.

House holds will split up 80% of 50% from fees, businesses will split up 20% of that 50% but the bill fails to say what businesses will qualify or benefit. Surely not reassuring to small business.

This bill will drive consumer prices for all products up and add to the struggles of the last 2 years.

Please give SB135 an unfavorable Report

WMDA/CAR is a trade association that has represented service stations, convenience stores and independent repair shops since 1937. Any questions can be addressed to Kirk McCauley, 301-775-0221 or kmccauley@wmda.net

SB 135_MDCC_Climate Crisis and Environmental Justi

Uploaded by: Maddy Voytek

Position: UNF



MARYLAND
Chamber of Commerce

LEGISLATIVE POSITION:

UNFAVORABLE

Senate Bill 135

Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Tuesday, February 15, 2022

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 5,500 members and federated partners working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic recovery and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce and its members express great concern over the new and ambitious greenhouse gas reduction goals set forth in SB 135, not because it is not a worthy endeavor, but because such changes will create an immense cost burden on Maryland employers, particularly manufacturers. Additionally, among the many provisions contained in SB 135, there are direct increases to the cost of energy, which will also impact all levels of government, since output will fall.

As the fiscal note points out, while special funds are intended to cover administrative costs, there will be a need to use general funds to initially cover costs prior to the special funds being made available. Furthermore, both the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) and the Comptroller's Office have expressed significant concerns over difficulties in determining just how much this initiative will cost. Despite this, it is estimated that combined administrative costs will be between \$9.1 million and \$11.6 million.

Unfortunately, with the fees and expected price increases on necessities that SB 135 lays out, many businesses and families that are still recovering financially from the COVID-19 pandemic will have their recovery and growth efforts further hindered. For these reasons, the Chamber respectfully requests an **unfavorable report** on Senate Bill 135.

MDCHAMBER.ORG

60 West Street, Suite 100, Annapolis 21401 | 410-269-0642

'22 SB 135 Climate Crisis & Environ Justice DGS LO

Uploaded by: Ellen Robertson

Position: INFO

Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt Governor



Ellington E. Churchill, Jr.
Secretary

Nelson E. Reichart
Deputy Secretary

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

BILL: Senate Bill 135 - Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act

COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

DATE: February 15, 2022

POSITION: Letter of Information

Upon review of Senate Bill 135 – Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act, the Maryland Department of General Services (DGS) provides these comments for your consideration.

This bill alters the State’s Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals and establishes a greenhouse gas pollution fee for transportation and non-transportation fuels. This fee would have a **significant fiscal impact on DGS**, as the agency responsible for State Construction and Maintenance, along with providing fuel for State Vehicles.

Non-Transportation fuels are used in State construction and facilities operations, usually used to heat spaces and water. **The proposed fee is estimated to increase the cost of energy by more than \$84.5 million over a ten-year period for all State buildings (including USM facilities).**

Transportation fuels are purchased to power the State vehicle fleet. The State is in the process of converting the fleet to electric vehicles (EVs), which helps to lessen the long-term fiscal impact. However, by 2032 this would still **cost a total of more than \$7.75 million** by implementing a pollution fee on carbon emissions.

For additional information, contact Ellen Robertson at 410-260-2908.



SB0135 - ENV - Environmental Justice Act - LOI_FIN

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: INFO



Larry Hogan
Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor
James F. Ports, Jr.
Secretary

February 15, 2022

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chairman, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 135 – Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on Senate Bill 135 but offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

Senate Bill 135 revises the State greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goal to achieve 60% reduction over 2006 levels by 2030 and 100% reduction from 2006 levels by 2040. In addition, it proposes that, after 2040, Statewide GHG emissions shall be net negative, accelerating our net-zero target by a decade. This timeline may be difficult to achieve, given the need to coordinate with various stakeholders to reduce emissions by 20% more than was previously targeted in the next eight years.

Senate Bill 135 also establishes a Climate Crisis Initiative within the Maryland Department of the Environment, which provides for the establishment of GHG reduction goals, a Climate Crisis Council (CCC), assessment of GHG pollution fees, etc. The CCC does not include a representative from MDOT nor does it identify an expert in the field of transportation as a member, although language in Senate Bill 135 includes fees associated with transportation fuels.

Senate Bill 135 also includes language on GHG pollution fees but does not necessarily clarify who is responsible for paying the GHG pollution fee.

MDOT also requests clarification of the fee not being passed through as a direct cost to the end user of a fossil fuel, as several of MDOT’s Transportation Business Units (TBUs) might be subject to the fees. This is contrary to not passing the direct cost to the end user, since it calls out the reduction in the amount of driving by private vehicles. This fee structure also seems contrary to existing law and imposing a new fee on the suppliers could negatively impact Statewide fuel supplies and impact commercial aviation services.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee carefully consider this information when deliberating Senate Bill 135.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Murphy
Director of Planning and Capital Programming
Department of Transportation
410-865-1275

Pilar Helm
Director of Government Affairs Maryland
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090

SB 135 LOI.pdf

Uploaded by: Tyler Abbott

Position: INFO



Maryland

Department of the Environment

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Ben Grumbles, Secretary
Horacio Tablada, Deputy Secretary

February 15, 2022

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, Suite 2W
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 135 - Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act

Dear Chair Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or the Department) has reviewed SB 135 entitled *Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act* and supports the bill's overall objective to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Climate change is an urgent threat, and all levels of government and nongovernment organizations must take increasingly aggressive and balanced actions to reduce GHG emissions and increase community resiliency. While the Department welcomes efforts to accelerate action to combat climate change, we would like to provide information on the bill as currently drafted.

The bill declares new goals to achieve a 60% reduction in statewide GHG emissions by 2030, 100% from 2006 levels by 2040, and net-negative emissions after 2040. While the Department generally finds more ambitious goals to be laudable, the committee should be aware that developing a plan for Maryland to achieve those goals through state programs while still meeting the current law's requirements for economic impacts will be difficult and may even be unachievable based on what Maryland can do at the state level to reduce GHGs. Such rapid reductions will require improvements in federal programs to advance new technologies and make major infrastructure investments. The Department believes that such federal action is necessary and long overdue, but when developing a state plan, the Department cannot assume federal action at that scale will occur.

In 2020, the independent Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC) recommended a different reduction goal for 2030, a 50% reduction rather than a 60% reduction.¹ These paths are not mutually exclusive, as the goal in the GGRA sets a floor on reductions, not a ceiling. The Department has always aimed to develop plans to exceed the required reductions by as much as possible, given available technology, constraints on state authority, and the requirements in the law.

On February 2021, the Department submitted its final *2030 GGRA Plan* to the Governor and General Assembly wherein the Department and the other Maryland state agencies advanced a portfolio of measures that would, if fully implemented, reduce Maryland's 2030 GHG emissions to 48.7% below 2006 levels, very nearly achieving the Commission's recommended 2030 goal.

This bill would require the Department, in consultation with the established Climate Crisis Council, to issue a final plan by December 31, 2022, that reduces statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 60% from 2006 levels by 2030. This unrealistic and unworkable requirement does not allow enough time for public comment and review of the numerous new mitigation programs that such a plan would need (research, analysis, and consultation, etc.).

The bill would also establish a GHG pollution fee for certain fossil fuels brought into the state. Fuels used for electricity generation are exempt as is anything that is superseded by federal law or regulation. Units of government whose primary purpose is to provide public transportation by bus, van, rail, or other means that reduce the amount of driving by private

¹ mde.maryland.gov/programs/Air/ClimateChange/MCCC/Documents/MCCCAnnualReport2020.pdf

Chair Pinsky

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motor vehicles are also exempt from the fee. The fee will be assessed per ton of carbon dioxide equivalent on both transportation and non-transportation fuels, and this section also includes a schedule of fee increases over certain years. Within 3 years after the fees and benefits take effect, the Department would also be required to report on whether any increases or decreases in GHG pollution fees are recommended, in consideration of certain parameters. The bill would designate the Secretary as administrator of the GHG fee schedules, with delegation of charges, distribution of benefits, and any other appropriate functions to the Comptroller.

Revenues generated from the fee would be split between two funds, the Household and Employer Benefit Fund and the Climate Crisis Infrastructure Fund. Proceeds in the Household and Employee Benefit Fund would be distributed toward low- and moderate-income households and energy-intensive, trade-exposed employers in the state. The Department is solely responsible for administering the funds. MDE would be required to consult with several other state agencies to provide distributions under both accounts.

MDE, in consultation with the established Climate Crisis Council, is also required to administer the Climate Crisis Infrastructure Fund. Proceeds in the Infrastructure Fund are to be used for initiatives that provide for cleaner transportation options, expansion of clean energy sources, resilience against climate change, carbon sequestration and promoting a just transition to clean energy. Up to 50% of this Fund, could be disbursed to qualified county and municipal governments for certain projects that meet the criteria in the bill. At least 50% of the money in the fund shall be invested in projects that are located within and provide meaningful benefits to environmental justice populations. On or before January 1, 2023, and every 3 years thereafter, the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) shall establish the criteria a population must meet to be considered an environmental justice population under the bill.

Additional provisions under this bill include the following: the Secretary would be responsible for studying and reporting the feasibility of imposing and collecting additional emission fees on fugitive emissions and intentional release of methane from natural gas infrastructure; the Department, in consultation with other entities, would be required to identify measures and programs to ensure low-income energy assistance and improve the efficiency of renter-occupied dwellings; and the Department, in consultation with the CEJSC, would be required to draft implementing regulations.

All these provisions would have a significant impact on the Department. MDE estimates that the revenues from this bill may exceed \$500 million beginning in FY24. Therefore, and taking into account the requirement for the Department to delegate the collection of charges to the Comptroller, MDE estimates that this bill would require the development of a new program(s) in the Department. The development of this program and systems would occur prior to seeing any influx of revenue generated from the required charges in the bill. While the Department currently has adequate and sufficient staff and resources to conduct its mission effectively and efficiently, any additional legislatively mandated program, such as this, will likely hamper our efficiency, force us to divert resources away from current core competencies, and likely disrupt customer service and/or diminish services.

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor SB 135 during the committee's deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-260-6301 or at tyler.abbott@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,



Tyler Abbott

cc: The Honorable Ben Kramer
George "Tad" Aburn, Director, Air and Radiation Administration