



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Dereck E. Davis, Chair
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Environment and Transportation Committee Members

FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)

RE: HB1543 Environment – Climate Crisis and Education Act

The MLLC supports HB1543 Environment – Climate Crisis and Education Act.

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation which improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a voice in the development of public policy affecting the Latino community and the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB1543.

Alarming scientific research that reports the catastrophic climate changes occurring and expected in the future is finally gaining the proper traction. Nations around the world are establishing policies to move towards a more environmentally conscience society. It has become clear that there is no time to waste when it comes to striving towards cleaner air, sustainable living environments, and alternative energy sources to avoid fossil fuel dependency.

The climate crisis affects everyone, however, it disproportionately impacts Latinos and low-income families that daily face the detrimental health effects. Maryland must lead again in environmental and education issues. As we take efforts to lower levels of greenhouse emissions in the upcoming years, to achieve real change it is critical to keep our environment and our future generations in mind. The State can take action that will prevent further deterioration of our plant and a method to fund our children's education. Investing in our children will be for nothing, if we do not achieve a sustainable environment.

HB1543 creates the Climate Crisis Initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the next 10 years and reach net-negative emissions by 2040. The bill establishes pollution fees on fossil fuels, electricity, and new vehicle sales and registrations. The revenue from fees will be used to fund for the Kirwan Initiative Fund and the Household and Employer Benefit Fund. These funds invest in our children's future and aid businesses in transitioning to a clean energy state economy, respectively. It is time to implement a plan that addresses our environmental and educational needs, producing a brighter future for Maryland.

The MLLC supports this bill and urges a favorable report on HB1543.