

# **AcClimate Senate Bill 76 Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ashley-Williams, Wandra

Position: FAV

**January 29, 2021**

**BILL: SB 76**  
**TITLE: Climate Crisis and Education Act**  
**POSITION: SUPPORT**  
**HEARING DATE: 2/2/2021**  
**COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation**  
**SPONSOR: Senator Benjamin Kramer**

As students, AcClimate members see a worthwhile future stretched out before us. Every choice we make is to build a better tomorrow. We study instead of play so we can gain critical knowledge; we work long into the night so we can get good grades and a stable job. In many ways, we forgo the ignorance and lightheartedness of youth for the sake of ensuring our futures. We endure the demands of education because we have faith that it will lead to a better tomorrow for ourselves and our communities. How, then, can we accept the actions of our legislators when they fail to protect that promise of tomorrow?

By neglecting to pass effective climate legislation, our representatives have left our futures unguarded. We are already beginning to lose our homes, to suffer worse health, and to face the economic consequences from the unchecked use of fossil fuels. Each year that this committee waits to pass a thorough, equitable, and evidence-based policy addressing the climate crisis, our hopes for tomorrow grow dimmer.

Few bills have the power to safeguard the futures of an entire generation of Marylanders. This is one of them. By incentivizing the transition to renewable energy while protecting the consumer and re-investing in our state, the Climate Crisis and Education Act restores our opportunity to create a better tomorrow.

For these reasons and more, AcClimate MD urges a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB 76.

Respectfully submitted,

**Julia Clark**  
**President**  
**AcClimate MD**  
**443-823-0702**

Cc: Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

# **Anjali Gulati Budget & Taxation Hearing testimony**

Uploaded by: Ashley-Williams, Wandra

Position: FAV

**January 29, 2021**

**BILL:** SB 76  
**TITLE:** Climate Crisis and Education Act  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT  
**HEARING DATE:** 2/2/2021  
**COMMITTEE:** Budget and Taxation  
**SPONSOR:** Senator Benjamin Kramer

Climate change is often associated with rapidly rising sea levels, erosion, ocean acidification, and increased precipitation. These environmental factors sound relatively faraway, until we take into consideration how we are affected. Floods, fires, droughts, and disease are advancing faster than many scientists predicted. If we fail to act now in response to climate change, temperatures will continue to rise, health risks due to heat stress will rise, and so will the prevalence of respiratory illness.

I'm from Baltimore City, which is disproportionately affected by climate change in Maryland, especially people of color and people earning low incomes who cannot afford to move elsewhere. HBCU students, in an already historically disenfranchised area, are the forefront of Baltimore's fight against political greed at the expense of our physical health.

A report from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science predicts sea levels around the state could rise by as little as 1 foot or as much as 7 feet by the end of the century — this is DIRECTLY DEPENDENT on how much carbon the world emits into the atmosphere. A study by Union of Concerned Scientists showed that 23,000 MD residents are at risk of chronic flooding by 2045, affecting nearly \$3.6 billion of residential property. Those numbers more than quadruple by 2100, when flooding is likely to become a near-daily occurrence in places like the Inner Harbor and Annapolis' City Dock.

A proposal for \$27 billion sea walls across Maryland to protect homes, businesses, and farmlands from Baltimore to Ocean City, begins to show how much there is to lose in the long run if we keep focusing on this year's budgetary needs alone.

That figure does not include the costs of adapting or building new stormwater and drinking water systems. It does not include the costs of raising and repairing roads, extinguishing wildfires, replenishing beaches, building community cooling centers and air-conditioned public housing, dealing with droughts or recovering from extreme storms.

Dealing with climate change takes more than chump change. It takes accountability from the primary emitters who profit at the expense of our health. We may not be able to control our national involvement in the Paris Agreement, but we can set goals for our state that could reverberate throughout the region, which are to reduce emissions totally by 2040.

Maryland's ecological diversity, between the mountains, plains, ocean, and the largest estuary in the US, should lead the nation by example. Virginia has already committed to this cause with passing the Clean Economy Act.

SB 76: Climate Crisis and Education Act not only formalizes material solutions to reverse environmental injustice, but the plan has the mechanism to generate the revenue to implement it successfully.

For these reasons and more, I, Anjali Gulati, urge a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB 76.

Respectfully submitted,

**Anjali Gulati**

**President**

**Females United to Uplift, Reshape and Educate (F.U.T.U.R.E.)**

**Morgan State University**

**410-322-6018**

Cc: Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

# **Arene Ogurick Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ashley-Williams, Wandra

Position: FAV

**January 29, 2021**

**BILL: SB0076**  
**TITLE: Climate Crisis and Education Act**  
**POSITION: SUPPORT**  
**HEARING DATE: 2/2/2021**  
**COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation**  
**SPONSOR: Senator Benjamin Kramer**

The Climate Crisis and Education Act will benefit our citizens and environment while providing energy companies incentives to increase their offerings of renewable energy products to Maryland's public. The millions of dollars obtained from placing increased fees on carbon pollution will be spent on the Kirwan Education Fund; protection of low-income families and energy-intensive trade business; and the improvement of our infrastructure. These results are a win-win for Maryland and its citizens. Greenhouse gas reduction and moving away from fossil fuels are essential to protecting our immediate environment and our planet. Associated fees will encourage change and ease even greater long-term dangers.

For these reasons and more, I urge FAVORABLE REPORT on SB 0076.

Respectfully submitted,

Arene Ogurick  
333 East 30<sup>th</sup> Street  
Baltimore, MD 21218  
[aogurick2001@yahoo.com](mailto:aogurick2001@yahoo.com)  
410-243-3055

Cc: Members of the Budget and Finance Committee

**CXC WLA Testimony SB0076.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ashley-Williams, Wandra

Position: FAV





**January 29, 2021**

**BILL:** SB0076  
**TITLE:** Climate Crisis and Education Act  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT  
**HEARING DATE:** 1/29/2021  
**COMMITTEE:** Budget and Taxation  
**SPONSOR:** Senator Benjamin Kramer

Climate XChange – Maryland supports Senate Bill SB0076 - the **Climate Crisis and Education Act (CCEA)** that would incentivizes the reduction in fossil fuel CO2 emissions by putting an increasing fee on fossil fuels at the point of entry in Maryland, while generating billions of dollars to reinvest in Maryland’s economy.

The CCEA sets a new statewide greenhouse gas-emission reduction goal of 60% by 2030 and net-zero by 2045. It also generates 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 and direct millions of dollars to help fund education.

Climate change is one of the greatest threats to our public health. Exposure to air pollution has been associated with many health effects. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), science has proven links between health conditions and the environment. For example, continuous exposure to fossil fuels often leads to detrimental health effects, such as infant mortality, chronic bronchitis, heart disease and strokes. Poor air quality can trigger asthma attacks and elevated blood lead levels in children can cause developmental disabilities. Extreme weather that causes power outages can lead to cases of carbon monoxide poisoning. Vulnerable populations like the elderly and infants are also intensely at risk for heat-related illnesses during heat waves.

One study found that in 2005, the national health burden of air pollution from carbon emissions was between 130,000 and 320,000 premature deaths per year. This was mostly due to emissions from generating electricity, vehicular exhaust... [Another study estimated that fossil fuels burned for home heating \(in 2005\) contributed to around 10,000 excess deaths each year in the U. S.](#), and that fossil fuel use for electricity production contributed to around 21,000 deaths annually.

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.

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 CCEA (SB0076) retains two provisions for benefits to low-to moderate income households. One is a cash rebate designed to protect low-to moderate-income residents. The other provision exists in the infrastructure fund, which currently allocates additional funds to residents in communities historically pollution-burdened and underserved.

For these reasons and more, Climate XChange urges a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB0076.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Cc: Members of the Budget and Finance Committee

# **Elizabeth Hasan SB 76 Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ashley-Williams, Wandra

Position: FAV

**TO: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee**

**RE: SB 76/HB 33 The Climate Crisis and Education Act**

**Support**

Dear Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

I am responding in favor of SB76/HB33, the Climate Crisis and Education Act.

People of color have been the first to be hurt by pollution, and the last to be protected. As a white person, I have observed that housing and education for this group have never been as good as what is available to whites. This bill will ensure that people of color make a just transition to a clean energy economy and builds resilient infrastructure in these communities. It is time for this inequality and unfairness to end.

Please pass HB33/SB76 as a step toward a restoration of justice that is sorely needed.

Elizabeth M. Hasan

3982 Forest Valley Rd

Parkville, MD 21234

[lizbet65@gmail.com](mailto:lizbet65@gmail.com)

# **John Schmidt SB 76 Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ashley-Williams, Wandra

Position: FAV

January 29, 2021

**TO: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**

**RE: SB 76/HB 33 The Climate Crisis and Education Act**

**Support**

Dear Members of the Budget & Taxation Committee:

Please vote in favor of HB33/SB76 Climate Crisis and Education Act. These bills address both climate issues and racial inequity and are extremely important for the future of the cities and state.

It seems that rarely does legislation have a win-win component but these bills do. They place the burden upon the causes of pollution through fees and provide benefits to low income families.

Thank you for your consideration.

John Schmidt  
421 S. Sharp St.  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
[Jack1530@aol.com](mailto:Jack1530@aol.com)

# **SB 76 Fr. Ray Chase Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ashley-Williams, Wandra

Position: FAV

January 27, 2021

TO: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
RE: SB76 and HB33 Climate Crisis and Education Act  
POSITION: SUPPORT  
HEARING DATE: Feb. 2, 2021

I'm writing to you in support of HB33/SB76 Climate Crisis & Education Act. I have always felt actions taken in the present must not only address present needs but do so within an important larger context or framework, i.e. what will the future look like with or without this particular bill. I fully understand this bill will have financial costs for some in the short term but within the larger context of the future it may ultimately prevent much larger expenditures required to repair the environment...if it can be repaired.

As we rightfully look at caring for one another in the present, it is equally essential we look beyond ourselves and care for those who will come after us. In my mind's eye, to support this bill is ultimately an act of compassion toward ourselves, those who will come after us as well as toward the environment without which we cannot thrive.

Lastly, for some unexplained reason we've come to believe the created world is at our disposal. It simply isn't and to believe so is more than problematic. We're part of the rest of the created world which means we must provide proper care for it which, in doing so, actually equally cares for ourselves who are part of it.

Thank you for reading and reflecting on what I want to share with you. I sincerely hope you will give very thoughtful consideration to the full range of issues that are embodied in this bill and will ultimately support it.

Sincerely,

Fr. Ray Chase  
1324 Greenbriar Circle  
Pikesville, MD  
443-452-8800  
bubrc@aol.com  
cc: Sen. Hettleman and Del. Cardin



# **SB 76 Kathy Younkin Testimony (1).pdf**

Uploaded by: Ashley-Williams, Wandra

Position: FAV

January 27, 2021

TO: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
RE: SB76 and HB33 Climate Crisis and Education Act  
POSITION: SUPPORT  
HEARING DATE: Feb. 2, 2021

Most Distinguished Representative:

I have supported moving away from fossil fuels for a long time. Half of my home electricity is generated by a solar field. We need to get more serious about this effort. Especially with the previous nay-sayer in the White House, we need to catch-up the Climate Change efforts.

Please support bills HB33 and SB76.

Establishing a Climate Crisis Initiative in the Department of the Environment for certain purposes; establishing a greenhouse gas reduction target of 60% from 2006 levels by 2030 and net-zero by 2045; establishing a Climate Crisis Council to develop a plan to reach the reduction targets and submit it to the General Assembly by December 31, 2022; requiring the Council to have the plan verified in a certain manner; requiring a greenhouse gas pollution fee on all fossil fuels brought into the State for combustion in the State. Direct the collected pollution fees to the Kirwan Commission Education Fund.

Respectfully submitted

Kathleen Younkin  
5275 Five Fingers Way  
Columbia MD 21045  
kyounkin@comcast.net

cc:  
Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary  
Delegate Shane Pendergrass  
Delegate Jen Terrasa

# **SB 76 Lawrence Liebesman Testimony.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ashley-Williams, Wandra

Position: FAV

**STATEMENT OF LAWRENCE R. LIEBESMAN, ESQ**

**SB 0076, CLIMATE CRISIS AND EDUCATION ACT**

**SUPPORT**

**MARYLAND SENATE, BUDGET & TAXATION COMMITTEE**

**HEARING on February 2, 2021**

My name is Larry Liebesman. I am submitting these comments in strong support of SB 0076, The Climate Crisis and Education Act ( SB 0076)

I have practiced environmental law for over 45 years having served at EPA and as a Senior Trial Attorney at the Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division. I have been an adjunct professor of environmental law at GW Law School where I taught wildlife law focusing on the serious impact of climate change on species habitat. I also sit on the Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board ( ESB) focusing on the water resource and resiliency impacts of climate change. I have been monitoring the meetings of the Maryland Climate Change Commission charged with developing a plan to meet the mandate of the GHG Reduction Act, signed into law by Governor Hogan, to achieve a 40% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 from a 2006 baseline. **MARYLAND FACES SEVERE RISKS FROM THE CLIMATE CRISIS REQUIRING URGENT ACTION NOW.** In my view there are two strong reasons that justify this important legislation.

**FIRST, THE BILL WILL SET MARYLAND ON PATH TO ACHIEVING NET ZERO EMISSIONS BY 2045**

The Bill will set statewide GHG reduction goals of 60 % by 2030 and 100% by 2045 consistent with the recommendation of the IPCC. **Economists agree that carbon pricing is the most efficient and cost-effective way to reduce GHG emission while incentivizing green energy. In fact, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen stated at her recent confirmation hearing that "we cannot solve the climate crisis without effect carbon pricing."** By putting an increasing fee on fossil fuels at point of entry in Md, the Bill's market-based approach, incentivizes the reduction in fossil fuel CO2 emissions It would put Maryland on a commonsense pathway to a sustainable vibrant economy. The Bill also provides a way to even exceed the current 40% CHG reduction goal in the GGRA and reach a 60% reduction by 2030. The Bill will complement programs such as Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and the Transportation Climate Initiative ( TCI).

**SECOND, THE BILL'S MARKET BASED SOLUTION WILL GENERATE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO HELP FUND CRITICAL PROGRAMS SUCH AS THE KIRWIN EDUCATION INITIATIVE AND PROVIDE AN EQUITABLE TRANSITION TO A CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY**

The Bill establishes separate funds for education, green infrastructure and household and employee benefits. The fees on fossil fuels and on high polluting vehicles generated under the Bill will deliver:

- \$350 M /yr. to help fund the Kirwin Education Fund
- \$180 M in year one and more than \$500 M in year ten to fund infrastructure needs
- \$490 M in yr. one and more than \$850M in year ten to provide benefits to protect low -income households
- Protects consumers by prohibiting the fossil fuel companies from passing the fee on to consumers and by giving low and middle income consumers dividends from the revenue
- Provides dividends to protect Maryland energy intensive trade exposed industries and protects local jobs
- Invests hundreds of millions of dollars into clean, renewable energy

These funds will help communities' transition in a fair and equitable manner to a clean energy economy. Further, based on a January 14, 2020 opinion from the Office of Attorney General, there appears to be no legal impediment to the General Assembly "prohibiting carbon polluters from passing through costs of a carbon tax onto their customers." The Bill will also create an expert based Climate Crisis Council that will develop policy recommendations to achieve the pollution reduction goals of the Act, to fund education through the Kirwan Initiative and to ensure that low and moderate-income households and impacted employers are protected from financial harm.

I urge the Committee to favorably report this important legislation

Respectfully

Lawrence R. Liebesman, Esq.  
5682 Vantage Pt. Rd.  
Columbia, MD 21044  
(410) 707- 0413  
larry.liebesman@gmail.com

# **SB 76 Rebecca Vardiman Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ashley-Williams, Wandra

Position: FAV

**January 29, 2021**

**BILL:** SB0076  
**TITLE:** Climate Crisis and Education Act  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT  
**HEARING DATE:** 2/2/2021  
**COMMITTEE:** Budget and Taxation  
**SPONSOR:** Senator Benjamin Kramer

Dear Members of the Committee:

I live in District 1B and want to be on record for being in full support of SB 76, the **Climate Crisis & Education Act**.

I ask that you give this legislation serious consideration as you work for the good of our state, and particularly to protect our beautiful western region and the people who live here.

Thank you for your service to the people you represent.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Vardiman  
437 Independence St.  
Cumberland, MD 21502  
**rebeccavardiman@gmail.com**

**SB0076-Testimony-2-Feb-2021\_Fav.pdf**

Uploaded by: Auerbach, Ruth

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY TO THE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

SB0076 Climate Crisis and Education Act Support

POSITION: Support

BY: Ruth Auerbach, District 13 Resident, Columbia, MD

Date: February 2, 2021

The planet is heading toward a climate crisis. The impacts are already being felt and will get much worse if we continue emitting greenhouse gasses at the current rate. According to more recent research, even the targets for greenhouse gas reduction set in earlier legislation are likely to still leave us vulnerable to disastrous climate outcomes. The Climate Crisis and Education Act sets stronger targets for greenhouse gas emissions. It charges fuel suppliers for the carbon dioxide emissions generated by their products, which will encourage the adaptation of clean energy. It puts the money raised by the fees toward climate resilient infrastructure, relief for low-income energy customers, a just transition for workers in the fossil fuel sector, and money toward the Kirwan Education Fund. This is a bill that will make Maryland a national leader in climate action.

**I urge your support for SB0076.**

**SB0076-FAV-DTMG-2-2-21.pdf**

Uploaded by: Bartlett, Olivia

Position: FAV



**Olivia Bartlett, Co-Lead, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team**

**Committee:** Budget and Taxation

**Testimony on:** SB0076 - Climate Crisis and Education Act

**Position:** Favorable

**Hearing Date:** February 2, 2021

**Bill Contact:** Senator Benjamin Kamer

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grass-roots organization with more than 2500 members who live in a wide range of communities in Montgomery and Frederick Counties, from Bethesda near the DC line north to Frederick and from Poolesville east to Silver Spring and Olney. DTMG supports legislation and activities that keep all the members of our communities healthy and safe in a clean environment, uplifts residents in all our communities, and promotes equity across all communities. DTMG strongly supports SB0076 because it directly addresses reduction of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that drive global warming and proposes to use the funds generated from a carbon fee to aid schools and impacted households.

Climate change is already here. Maryland already has nuisance flooding, 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 serious for our children and grandchildren. We must act now to move Maryland towards a renewable energy future.

SB0076 will establish the Climate Crisis Initiative in the Department of the Environment and the Climate Crisis Council to oversee an important and well-structured program to bring Maryland's plans for addressing the existential threat of climate change into line with the scientific recommendations of the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

SB0076 will update Maryland's GHG goals to 60% reduction by 2030, net zero emissions by 2045, and net negative after that and will establish a progressively rising carbon fee on all fossil fuels brought into the state for combustion and on the sale or registration of new high-emission vehicles. In order to motivate emitters to decrease emissions, SB0076 will raise the carbon fee over time so households and industries have time to adjust and adopt less carbon-heavy practices. The fees will be used to fund implementation of the recommendations of the Kirwan Commission to improve education in Maryland, to provide rebates to low- to moderate-income households and employers to offset the impact of the fees, and to fund activities for GHG reduction and sequestration, improvements in resiliency, and promotion of a just economic transition in the state.

Research shows that carbon taxes effectively reduce GHG emissions and are the most efficient and effective way to curb climate change with the least adverse effects on the economy. In 2019, more than 3,000 U.S. economists, including 27 Nobel Laureates, signed a statement calling a carbon tax "the most cost-effective lever to reduce carbon emissions at the scale and speed that is necessary." Putting a price on carbon raises the incentive for industries to innovate and find ways to lower their emissions and changes the behavior of individual consumers. In addition to creating incentives for energy conservation, a carbon tax would put renewable energy sources, such as wind, solar, and geothermal, on a more competitive footing, stimulating their growth. As of 2019, carbon taxes have been implemented or scheduled for implementation in 25 countries, while 46 countries put some form of price on carbon, either through carbon taxes or cap and trade schemes.

Therefore, DTMG strongly supports HB0022 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report on this bill. DTMG also agrees with testimony submitted separately by Donald M. Goldberg, Executive Director of the Climate Law & Policy Project, that SB0076 would be strengthened by applying the fee to electricity, adding a carveout for Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative allowances, modifying the revenue distribution so that that low- and middle-income households will be better protected from economic impacts of the fee, and eliminating the restriction on passing the fee on to end-use consumers.

Respectfully submitted,

Olivia Bartlett  
Co-lead, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team  
[olviabartlett@verizon.net](mailto:olviabartlett@verizon.net)  
240-751-5599

**SB0076 Writtten Testimony (1).pdf**

Uploaded by: Benitez, Victoria

Position: FAV

January 27, 2021

**BILL:** SB0076  
**TITLE:** Climate Crisis and Education Act  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT  
**HEARING DATE:** 02/02/2021  
**COMMITTEE:** Budget and Taxation  
**SPONSOR:** Senator Benjamin Kramer

Rising sea levels, shifting weather patterns, and acidification of our coastal waters are some of the numerous impacts of greenhouse gases in Maryland. Symptoms of climate change are encroaching the globe at every angle. We cannot escape these changes unless we take drastic steps to reduce our fossil fuel CO2 emissions. There is an undeniable desire to have a habitable Earth for future generations. Although we have already begun to make changes, there continues to be emissions being released. As a state, we have already promoted environmentally-conscious practices. Maryland's petroleum consumption is the second lowest among the states. Maryland is ranked among 10 states with the lowest per capita natural gas use. The purpose of the Climate Crisis and Education Act is to continue these strides to reduce our carbon footprint. Considering this bill's favorability in the last session, it attests to the prioritization of this matter for many constituents.

Additionally, this bill promotes equitable distribution of funds. The bill addresses the disparities the state faces. First, the bill will protect low-income households and those most vulnerable to climate disaster from financial harm. Meaning, this bill will not burden those struggling financially. By addressing socioeconomic status, this bill also addresses another issue: Baltimore's densely populated neighborhoods. Urban, low-income communities suffer in the Urban Heat Island. Meaning, communities which are often overlooked are suffering due to the insensitivity from oil/fossil fuel companies. The compact city-living can increase respiratory and heat illnesses, pandemic risk, and vector borne diseases. COVID-19 is a familiar foe, and there is no denial of the role of climate change in its spread. COVID-19 continues to affect families in Maryland. As a legislative body it should be considered how the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions can improve the city of Baltimore and other communities which have felt the brunt force of climate change.

Furthermore, the bill will address inequalities in the education system. Maryland is home to some of the best counties in the country, but there continues to be schools running with insufficient funds. The Climate Crisis and Education bill intends to implement the funds received from increased fossil fuel fees to the state's education system. The bill will administer \$350 million to public education each year. As students from Howard County, we acknowledge the privilege it is to have up-to-date electronics and sufficient textbooks readily available. Unfortunately, this is not the story for many students around the state. Most districts in Maryland do not receive the money they need for students to excel academically, and is more apparent in students of color. The allocation of funds and its impacts on the children of the future are invaluable investments.

The fossil fuel fees which will come into effect through the Climate Crisis and Education Act will help in the conversion to renewable energies. Some benefits of this bill include: locally produced renewable energy creating jobs, economic vitality, and high investments in public goods.

In short, we have contributed to global greenhouse gases. Like a cancerous mass, the gases will continue to cut off life unless we take action. The environment is pleading for action, yet we continue to ignore its desperation.

As young climate activists, it is disheartening to see a normalization of climate change. There is a glimmer of hope shining from legislation such as the Climate Crisis and Education Act. Promoting equitable and environmentally conscious decisions cannot be compromised for businesses who crave the highest profit margins. We cannot continue to cut corners on an issue which continues to seek dire attention.

We would like to thank those supporting this bill like Senator Kramer for continuing this fight for environmental justice.

For these reasons and more, the body of the Howard County Conservancy's Climate Change Institute strongly supports and urges a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB0076 Climate Crisis and Education Act.

Respectfully submitted,

**Victoria Benitez of Oakland Mills High School, Maya Santhanam of Centennial High School, Oliver Song of Wilde Lake High School, Saketh Sundar of River Hill High School, Lindsay Sands of Wilde Lake High School, Evan Borodin of Reservoir High School, Zainab Zarnish of Reservoir High School**

**Victoria Benitez  
7092 Maiden Point PI Elkridge, MD 21075  
isav2443@gmail.com  
443-440-0880**

cc: Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

# **Testimony In Support of SB 76 Climate Crisis Act F**

Uploaded by: Ceruolo, Rich

Position: FAV



January 28, 2021

Maryland Senate  
11 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, MD. 21401

**In Support of SB 76: Climate Crisis and Education Act of 2021**

Good day members of the Budget & Taxation, and Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committees.

I am writing to you today to support for establishing a Climate Crisis Council here within the state of Maryland. It is the kind of bold strokes needed to help study ways to reduce greenhouse gases in our region of the country.

Please support this legislation so that we can start the long process of reducing greenhouse gases from our environment with the hope of improving air quality across Maryland and the larger DMV. Imposing a tax on the fossil fuels and carbon being burned within our state is another positive step forward.

As a species, we need to do more to protect our precious natural resources and to help safeguard our local ecosystem. After rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement, President Joe R. Biden just announced a new focus on environmental policy by appointing former Sen. John Kerry to help lead this national and worldwide effort. Let's help to build on President Biden's efforts.

Green technologies are and will be the future drivers of the world's economies. Let's take the money collected from fossil fuel taxes and re-invest it into cleaner, greener state infrastructure and technologies that will help reduce carbon dioxide from our air. And help to create more good paying, 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs for our current and future generations of citizens.

Patchwork solutions seldom work well. We need policy that is bold, wide reaching, and can make a positive impact across the state, our country and across our planet. A climate crisis council can help to improve our state's environmental policy. As well as helping to influence the environmental policies of our regional neighbors. While working in concert together to reduce greenhouse gases emissions, and improve the quality of our air across this region of the country. Let's strive to be a model for other states and other countries to follow while working to slow the effects of global climate change.

Please vote to support SB 76 and return a favorable vote on this important bill.  
Thank you for your time and considering of my testimony today.

Mr. Richard Ceruolo,  
Parent and advocate for children with disabilities, Maryland families, and Maryland's environment.  
Parent Advocacy Consortium

**Bill Testimony Andrea Power District 36-1.pdf**

Uploaded by: Clark, Hope

Position: FAV

**January 29, 2021**

**BILL:** **SB0076**  
**TITLE:** Climate Crisis and Education Act  
**POSITION:** **SUPPORT**  
**HEARING DATE:** 2/2/2021  
**COMMITTEE:** Budget and Taxation  
**SPONSOR:** Senator Benjamin Kramer

Dear Members of the Committee,

Please support SB0076. We don't have time for inaction. Climate change is impacting our waterways, soil, economy and life itself.

Here in Kent County where my family and I live, rising waters are taking away land from farmers and residents and revenue from businesses. People who earn their living from oysters, crabs and fish in the Bay are seeing their way of life disappear from rising temperatures and changes in water salinity that are killing aquatic life. Beyond the measure of money is a greater question: what kind of world do we want to leave our children? We need a solution.

The Climate Crisis and Education Act is a solid answer all around. It incrementally increases the price of fossil fuels, a main driver the greenhouse gas emissions that are impacting life in our state and everywhere on our planet. The funds collected will support the green infrastructure for a just transition and contribute to desperately needed funds for education in our State. Every one wins.

For these reasons and more, I, Andrea Power, a member of Chestertown Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter, urge a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB0076.

Respectfully,

**Andrea Power**  
**Member**  
**Citizens' Climate Lobby Chestertown Chapter**  
**301-575-6826**

Cc: Members of the Budget and Finance Committee

# **SB 76 Linda and Peter Yungbluth.pdf**

Uploaded by: Clark, Hope

Position: FAV

BILL: SB0076  
TITLE: Climate Crisis and Education Act  
POSITION: SUPPORT  
HEARING DATE: 2/2/2021  
COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation  
SPONSOR: Senator Benjamin Kramer

Dear Members of the Committee,

We live outside Easton, MD, near the Miles River where at only 8 feet above high tide, we are at risk for flooding during a hurricane. Neighbors are losing shoreline at an alarming rate.

We are avid birders and travel the Eastern Shore searching for birds. In our travels over the years we have seen land on Hooper's Island and around Blackwater NWR disappear. We have observed dead trees and loss of farmland due to saltwater intrusion. A fellow birder lives on over a 100 acres of farmland and waterfront property in Dorchester County which has been in his family for 300 years. He does not expect this family farm to exist in 50 years. Land that was home to some of our favorite bird species no longer exists. This rate of change in our lifetimes is a loud wake up call.

The Climate Crisis and Education Act incrementally raises the price of fossil fuels, a main cause of the greenhouse gas emissions changing our climate and life as we know it on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. The funds collected will support the green infrastructure we need and contribute to the desperately needed funds for education in Maryland.

The Climate Crisis and Education Act is a real solution to the effects the Eastern Shore is experiencing due to Climate Change. It also helps Maryland meet the goal of being carbon neutral by 2045. For these reasons, we, Linda and Peter Yungbluth, urge a favorable report on SB0076.

Thank you for all that you do as public servants.

Linda and Peter Yungbluth

**SB0076 Testimony Hope Clark District 36.pdf**

Uploaded by: Clark, Hope

Position: FAV

**February 29, 2021**

**BILL: SB0076**  
**TITLE: Climate Crisis and Education Act**  
**POSITION: SUPPORT**  
**HEARING DATE: 2/2/2021**  
**COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation**  
**SPONSOR: Senator Benjamin Kramer**

Dear Members of the Committee,

I live in Chestertown, MD, where I see flooding on a regular basis, and soil erosion eating away at our land accumulatively every year. We don't have time to wait.

Farmers are losing their land due to salt water intrusion. Waterfront businesses are losing revenue due to flooding. Waterman's businesses are being affected by acidification of the Bay and water salination changes. Commercial and personal properties are devaluing at an alarming rate. Our economy is suffering and it is only going to get worse. We need a solution.

The Climate Crisis and Education Act is a win, win on all fronts. It incrementally rises the price of fossil fuels, a main cause of the greenhouse gas emissions changing our climate and these noted adverse effects. The funds collected will support the green infrastructure we need for a just transition and contribute to desperately needed funds for education in our State. Every one wins.

For these reasons and more, I, Hope Clark, Chestertown Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter Leader urge a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB0076.

Respectfully submitted,

**Hope Clark**  
**Group Leader**  
**Citizens' Climate Lobby Chestertown Chapter**  
**410 778 9031**

Cc: Members of the Budget and Finance Committee

# **SB0076 Saunders Comment.pdf**

Uploaded by: Clark, Hope

Position: FAV



**January 27, 2021**

**BILL:** SB0076  
**TITLE:** Climate Crisis and Education Act  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT  
**HEARING DATE:** 2/2/2021  
**COMMITTEE:** Budget and Taxation  
**SPONSOR:** Senator Benjamin Kramer

### **Super Bowl LV: Fossils versus Renewables**

Pat George (announcer): Here we are at the big game. The Fossils have had a 100-year waltz, winning every game, but the young Renewables are on the field with the wind at their back.

Fred Arnold (sidekick): I used to be a Fossil fan, I sure do like my warm home and my cheap gas. But my kids tell me that if we increase two degrees centigrade, Greenland ice melts and the Eastern Shore goes underwater.

Pat: Oh, those young Renewables think they're so smart with their statistics and their graphs. I tell you the Fossils are hot and they're not giving up.

Fred: My daughter tells me that "natural gas" actually is methane, CH<sub>4</sub>. That's carbon with four hydrogen atoms. She calculated that our BGE bill showing 1,052 therms for heat and cooking emitted 5.62 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent. Imagine that! My townhouse generates over five tons of greenhouse gas! Who knew? She says it creates a blanket that traps heat and lasts for about 100 years. I made the mistake of calling her a "tree hugger" and she sat me down for 50 PowerPoint slides that convinced me that science matters.

Pat: Renewables want the Commissioner to eliminate the Free Pollution Rule. Renewables say that if Fossils had to pay about \$10-\$15 per ton of pollution, it would level the field. The refs look the other way when Fossils pollute, so solar farms and wind turbines are hard to sell.

Fred: My daughter says that Commissioner Hogan will be a superhero if he eliminates the Free Pollution Rule and quarterback the **Climate Crisis and Education Act (CCEA)** across the finish line. She says that Renewable fans across the county will sing his praises.

For these reasons and more, I David Saunders urge a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB0076.

Respectfully submitted,

**David Saunders CC-P\***, Volunteer with Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN)  
410-456-8542 cell

**\*Climate Change Professional (CC-P), Certified by the Association of Climate Change Officers and the State of Maryland**

Cc: Members of the Budget and Finance Committee

# Testimony for CCEA.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Clark, Hope

Position: FAV

**1/29/21**

**BILL:** SB0076  
**TITLE:** Climate Crisis and Education Act  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT  
**HEARING DATE:** 2/2/2021  
**COMMITTEE:** Budget and Taxation  
**SPONSOR:** Senator Benjamin Kramer

I'm Julia Hananel, and I'm an eighteen year old student at University of Maryland, where I'm a member of the AcClimate environmental club.

Like many other students my age, climate change has been on my mind throughout my teenage years. We've heard about the disastrous and deadly consequences that we'll face if we don't curb rising temperatures. Climate change looms in our minds when my friends and I talk about our future. In these conversations, there is more anxiety and uncertainty than there is excitement -- will we be able to live somewhere with healthy enough air quality to breathe? Can we find somewhere without severe, destructive weather patterns? There are fewer and fewer places that meet these criteria.

We've been betrayed by previous generations, and are now left with a seemingly apocalyptic future. We're frustrated with the lack of leadership on climate change, and elected officials who don't seem to care about our future. Like many other students, I've channeled my frustration into action.

I'm part of a generation that has challenged the status quo and stood up for our safety and our future. We've skipped school to protest for climate action, knowing that our education is meaningless if there is no hope for a healthy planet. We've organized, protested, and delivered record-setting youth voter turnout in the 2018 midterms and in the 2020 general election. I've been organizing and protesting for my future before I could even vote.

Maryland's coastal location makes it one of the most vulnerable states when it comes to the impacts of climate change. Low-lying areas like Annapolis are already dealing with frequent flooding. Our farms will suffer more and more from rising temperatures and droughts.

Bold climate action is long overdue, and the Climate Crisis and Education Act is an excellent place to start. As someone who has gone through the Maryland public school system K through 12, I am excited to have a bill that addresses climate change while providing funds for our schools.

I'm proud to be from Maryland, and I want to be proud of the work Maryland does on climate. My generation would be proud to see a bill passed like the CCEA.

For these reasons and more, I, Julia Hananel from AcClimate, urge a favorable report on SB0076.

Respectfully submitted,

**Julia Hananel**  
**9204 Wilmett Court**  
**juleshananel@gmail.com**  
**301-385-0231**

cc: Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

# Montgomery County Young Democrats Testimony in Sup

Uploaded by: DeLong, Michael

Position: FAV



## Montgomery County Young Democrats Testimony in Support of SB 76-Climate Crisis and Education Act

February 2, 2021

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, members of the Committee,

Thank you for receiving our testimony. My name is Michael DeLong and I am the President of the Montgomery County Young Democrats, a group of young Democrats ages 14-34 who are dedicated to making Montgomery County and Maryland better places to live, with freedom, opportunity, and justice for all. Our testimony is in support of SB 76 (the Climate Crisis and Education Act), sponsored by Senator Ben Kramer, and the House version HB 33, sponsored by Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo. This bill will help to mitigate climate change and fund education on the crisis as well as other educational priorities, and it deserves your support.

Climate change is one of the biggest crises facing our state, and in order to mitigate its effects, Maryland needs to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 70% in 2030 and 100% by 2040. These pollutants are harming the future of our children, our economy, and our infrastructure. At the top of those affected by climate change and the accompanying poor air quality are historically disenfranchised communities: those living in poverty stricken areas and communities of color.

SB 76 will establish a Climate Crisis Initiative in the Department of the Environment and a Climate Crisis Council that will develop a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It will also fine companies emitting fossil fuels, charging them for the pollution they are causing. The bill forbids the fossil fuel companies from passing these fees on to consumers, and will hold them accountable for the damage they are causing to the environment and climate.

Accountability continues to be an ongoing challenge for companies who are emitting greenhouse gases, with too many of them avoiding payment for their emissions. SB 76 will end that and ensure companies have a strong incentive to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and move toward cleaner energy. It will further result in substantial funds for the state government; fossil fuel companies will become more accountable for their actions and put their money towards the improvement of Maryland.

Finally, the Climate Crisis and Education Act will fund excellent priorities. It will invest in clean energy infrastructure and provide money for the Kirwan Commission's recommendations to

fully fund education. The fee will result in \$350 million per year to fund those recommendations, which will benefit Maryland's children, families, and overall welfare.

We Montgomery County Young Democrats urge you to vote for SB 76 and favorably report it out of committee, and to urge your colleagues to do the same.

Please contact us at [mocoyoungdems@gmail.com](mailto:mocoyoungdems@gmail.com) or [michaeldelong94@gmail.com](mailto:michaeldelong94@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Michael DeLong, President  
Teresa Woorman, Vice President  
Stephen Schiavone, Treasurer  
Kathleen Bender, Political Advocacy Director  
Keyna Anyiam, Membership Director  
Margie Delao, Communications Director  
Steven Cename, Secretary

# **Climate Crisis and Education Act CCAN AF\_Testimony**

Uploaded by: DeMarco, Jamie

Position: FAV

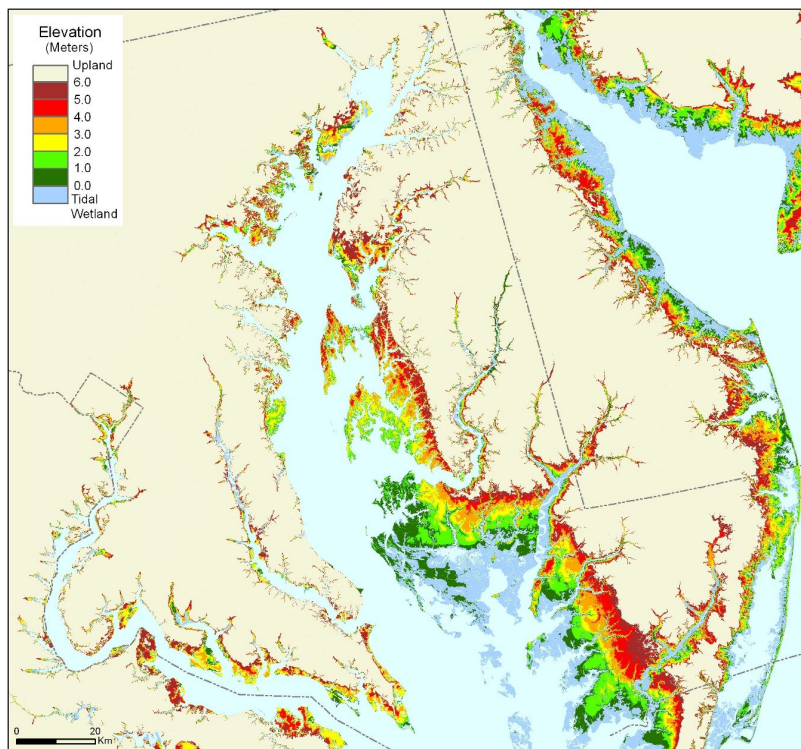


**Testimony in Support of  
Climate Crisis and Education Act (SB 0076)  
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs and Budget and Tax Committees  
February 2, 2021**

**Jamie DeMarco, Federal and Maryland Policy Director  
Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund**

On behalf of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund, I strongly urge a favorable report on SB 0414, The Climate Crisis and Education Act of 2021. The children of Maryland deserve a world class education and livable world in which to use that education. The Climate Crisis and Education Act will work to give them both of those things.

This week [new satellite data](#) found that rates of melting ice around the world match the worst case scenarios from scientific modeling. [In those worst case scenarios](#), the oceans rise 8 feet by 2100. [The map](#) below shows that if we let this happen, then children born today will live to see Ocean City disappear beneath the waves.



**Elevations of Land Close to Sea Level**  
Elevations are above spring high water, which is the average high tide during new and full moons, and approximately the inland boundary of tidal wetlands. This map is a general graphical representation of elevations in the area depicted, not designed to estimate the precise elevations at specific locations. Due to the use of a variety of data sources, the accuracy of this map varies. Elevations at specific locations are generally within 30 cm above or below the elevation depicted along the Eastern Shore south of Rock Hall and in Baltimore County, 75 cm in Anne Arundel County and the states of Delaware and New Jersey, and 150 cm elsewhere.  
Source: J. G. Titus and J. Wang, 2008. "Maps of Lands Close to Sea Level along the Mid-Atlantic Coast". US Environmental Protection Agency.



To avoid this fate we must reduce our greenhouse gas emissions at least 60% by 2030 and have net zero emissions by 2045. To achieve emission reductions of this scale we will need funds. We will need to protect our workers who have kept the lights on for decades. We need to invest in black and brown communities that have been overburdened by fossil fuel infrastructure. We need to pay for homes to switch from gas furnaces to electric heat pumps. All of this will cost money, and taxpayers should not have to foot the bill. Big fossil fuels executives should.

The fossil fuel industry knew the science of climate change back in the 80s that the science of climate change is incontrovertible and catastrophic. They raised the decks on their oil wells because they knew the seas would rise. Then they went about lying and deceiving the public for 40 years. They have successfully stymied meaningful climate legislation in Congress and gotten us into this crisis. They are responsible for this damage, and they should be the ones who have to pay.

This legislation would take wealth from the fossil fuel industry and put it into education, the pockets of every day Marylanders, and climate solutions. This bill will improve the economy, reduce racial disparities, grow the economy, and help solve the climate crisis.

We urge a favorable report.

#### **CONTACT**

Jamie DeMarco, Federal and Maryland Policy Director  
[Jamie@chesapeakeclimate.org](mailto:Jamie@chesapeakeclimate.org) (443) 845-5601



**SB76\_IndivisibleHoCoMD\_FAV\_RichardDeutschmann.pdf**

Uploaded by: Deutschmann, Richard

Position: FAV



## **SB76 – Climate Crisis and Education Act**

### **Testimony before Senate Budget and Taxation**

**February 2, 2021**

**Position: Favorable**

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Richard Deutschmann, and I represent the 700+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in **support of SB76**, which will put a price on carbon in the state, while funding education and clean energy programs. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members).

The world's leading climate scientists warn that we have 10 short years to dramatically reduce our climate-disrupting emissions. Historic Ellicott City Maryland has suffered not just one, but two – 1000-year floods in the last 4 years, wiping out numerous long-standing business in its wake. And the Washington Post reported just this week on the potential catastrophic affects that sea level rise will have on Anne Arundel County's 530 miles of shoreline.



We have the solutions and the technological answers to this problem, we just need the political will to make it happen. Economists widely agree that one of the most elegant and market friendly ways to do this is by putting a price on carbon. Once this fee is applied to all forms of carbon, it sends a signal to the market that the economic conditions are ripe for deploying of low-carbon alternatives, and the market accelerates clean energy alternatives.

**SB76** does just that, setting a price on carbon entering the state. But it goes much further, by using these funds raised in 3 ways. First, it helps to fund expanding educational opportunities and school construction in the state. Second, it will provide funding for our most successful clean energy programs. And finally, it helps to offset the cost to consumers, by providing a direct dividend back to our citizens. The benefits begin with real and tangible reductions to our emissions of greenhouse gases, and directly taking on the biggest contributor to global climate change from our state. Passage of this bill will have numerous public health benefits. The use of fossil fuels for our energy and transportation need has well-known detrimental impacts to our air and water, including the emission of mercury, lead, sulfur dioxide, nitrous oxides and particulates into our air, and well contamination from fracked gas sites and other water pollution from the use of liquid fuels such as gasoline. The impacts include nearly all Marylanders living in an EPA non-attainment area for air quality, and high rates of asthma and other deadly lung

diseases. These affects are disproportionately felt by our economically disadvantaged citizens of the state. Cleaning up this air and water pollution will have profound positive health impacts for our children and future generations, and will reduce health care costs across the state. Finally, educational funding and clean energy deployment will both increase steeply with this legislation, which will have the added benefit of putting a dividend in consumer's pocket.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

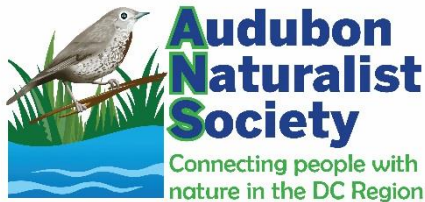
**We strongly urge a favorable report.**

Richard Deutschmann  
Columbia, MD 21045

**2021\_01\_29\_SB76\_ANS\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Guitarra, Denisse

Position: FAV



January 29, 2021

**Written Testimony for [SB76](#)- Environment – Climate Crisis and Education Act (CCEA)**

**Position: Favorable**

**Submitted by Denisse Guitarra**

Maryland Conservation Advocate, Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS)

---

Dear Budget and Taxation Committee,

For 124 years, Audubon Naturalist Society has inspired people to enjoy, learn about and protect nature. We thank the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee for the opportunity to provide testimony for SB76 - Environment – Climate Crisis and Education Act (CCEA).

As we navigate today's public health, social, and economic crises, it is critical to support the passage of SB76. CCEA seeks to help all Marylanders transition equitably and sustainably into a green economy by requiring fossil fuel producers to pay for emissions and use the funds collected to invest in green infrastructure and education. Under CCEA, the fossil fuel money will be contributed to three separate funds: 1) a green infrastructure fund, 2) a \$350 million per year education fund for the Kirwan Initiative, and 3) a fund to invest hundreds of millions in supporting Maryland's most vulnerable populations to transition to clean renewable energy. CCEA is a holistic, equitable and climate focused bill that Maryland needs to cut back our greenhouse gas emission to 60% by 2030 and achieve net zero carbon by 2045 while continuing to strengthen our economy and support those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Woodend Sanctuary | 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815 | 301-652-9188

Rust Sanctuary | 802 Childrens Center Road, Leesburg, Virginia 20175 | 703-669-0000

[anshome.org](http://anshome.org)

ANS is supportive of CCEA/SB76 due to our long history of educating young children throughout the Washington, DC region. ANS Educators via GreenKids, an environmental education program we provide for free to Maryland public schools, teach children of all ages about the importance of protecting our environment, especially in this time of climate change. ANS also has our own Nature Preschool on site at our Woodend Sanctuary and we know the importance of early childhood education, a strong area of emphasis in the Kirwan Initiative.

ANS supports SB76 for its climate change, environmental justice, and education impacts and benefits. On behalf of ANS and our 28,000 members and supporters, we recommend that the Budget and Taxation Committee support the passage of SB76.

Sincerely,

Denisse Guitarra

Maryland Conservation Advocate

Audubon Naturalist Society



# **Testimony for CCEA.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Hananel, Julia

Position: FAV

**1/29/21**

**BILL:** SB0076  
**TITLE:** Climate Crisis and Education Act  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT  
**HEARING DATE:** 2/2/2021  
**COMMITTEE:** Budget and Taxation  
**SPONSOR:** Senator Benjamin Kramer

I'm Julia Hananel, and I'm an eighteen year old student at University of Maryland, where I'm a member of the AcClimate environmental club.

Like many other students my age, climate change has been on my mind throughout my teenage years. We've heard about the disastrous and deadly consequences that we'll face if we don't curb rising temperatures. Climate change looms in our minds when my friends and I talk about our future. In these conversations, there is more anxiety and uncertainty than there is excitement -- will we be able to live somewhere with healthy enough air quality to breathe? Can we find somewhere without severe, destructive weather patterns? There are fewer and fewer places that meet these criteria.

We've been betrayed by previous generations, and are now left with a seemingly apocalyptic future. We're frustrated with the lack of leadership on climate change, and elected officials who don't seem to care about our future. Like many other students, I've channeled my frustration into action.

I'm part of a generation that has challenged the status quo and stood up for our safety and our future. We've skipped school to protest for climate action, knowing that our education is meaningless if there is no hope for a healthy planet. We've organized, protested, and delivered record-setting youth voter turnout in the 2018 midterms and in the 2020 general election. I've been organizing and protesting for my future before I could even vote.

Maryland's coastal location makes it one of the most vulnerable states when it comes to the impacts of climate change. Low-lying areas like Annapolis are already dealing with frequent flooding. Our farms will suffer more and more from rising temperatures and droughts.

Bold climate action is long overdue, and the Climate Crisis and Education Act is an excellent place to start. As someone who has gone through the Maryland public school system K through 12, I am excited to have a bill that addresses climate change while providing funds for our schools.

I'm proud to be from Maryland, and I want to be proud of the work Maryland does on climate. My generation would be proud to see a bill passed like the CCEA.

For these reasons and more, I, Julia Hananel from AcClimate, urge a favorable report on SB0076.

Respectfully submitted,

**Julia Hananel**  
**9204 Wilmett Court**  
**juleshananel@gmail.com**  
**301-385-0231**

cc: Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

**SB0076\_CCEA\_MLC\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Plante, Cecilia

Position: FAV



## TESTIMONY FOR SB0076 CLIMATE CRISIS AND EDUCATION ACT

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Kramer

**Committee:** Budget and Tax

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0076 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

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, building greener infrastructure for the future, 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 that they knew caused harm to fund our transition to clean energy.

The bill places a fee on fossil fuel products coming into the state and specifically prohibits the entities who must pay the fee to then turn around and pass the fee on to consumers. The fee then escalates 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 and worker transition to clean energy jobs; provide support to low-income households and energy intensive trade exposed businesses affected by the change to cleaner energy sources; and fund our children's education.

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.

# **Plunkert SB 76 testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Plunkert, Madison

Position: FAV

**January 29, 2021**

**BILL: SB0076**  
**TITLE: Climate Crisis and Education Act**  
**POSITION: SUPPORT**  
**HEARING DATE: 2/2/2021**  
**COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation**  
**SPONSOR: Senator Benjamin Kramer**

Dear Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

For the sake of global food security and human health, we must implement the Climate Crisis and Education Act. It is a chance for our state to take leadership on the climate crisis and demonstrate to the nation how Maryland uses the market to stop the climate crisis.

As a plant biology researcher in a lab at the University of Maryland, I am familiar with the effects of climate change on crop plants. Heat and dry conditions affect plants in many ways; for example, in strawberry, tomato, and many other crops, high temperatures destroy pollen. Fruit and grain crops require pollination to initiate fruit, and fruit initiation is reduced in hot weather.

Labs like mine are attempting to develop strawberry varieties that bypass pollination and initiate fruit directly, anticipating that climate change will make pollination a rarer event in years to come. Of course, other teams of plant science researchers are dedicated to the same pollination issue in other species.

Still other teams are dedicated to other problems crops face in a changing climate: how to initiate flowers and stay alive in adverse conditions. The magnitude of the job is absurd- how can we breed and engineer new varieties of every species in the produce section of a grocery store?

Instead of trying to develop new crop varieties that can stand up to climate change, it is far more sensible to stop climate change at the source by taxing emitters of greenhouse gases.

For these reasons and more, I, Madison Plunkert, urge a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB0076.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Madison Plunkert**  
**14419 Falls Rd**  
**Cockeysville, MD 21030**  
**mplunkert@gmail.com**  
**410-493-5778**

cc: Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

# **SB0076 Saunders Comment.pdf**

Uploaded by: Saunders, David

Position: FAV



**January 27, 2021**

**BILL:** SB0076  
**TITLE:** Climate Crisis and Education Act  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT  
**HEARING DATE:** 2/2/2021  
**COMMITTEE:** Budget and Taxation  
**SPONSOR:** Senator Benjamin Kramer

### **Super Bowl LV: Fossils versus Renewables**

Pat George (announcer): Here we are at the big game. The Fossils have had a 100-year waltz, winning every game, but the young Renewables are on the field with the wind at their back.

Fred Arnold (sidekick): I used to be a Fossil fan, I sure do like my warm home and my cheap gas. But my kids tell me that if we increase two degrees centigrade, Greenland ice melts and the Eastern Shore goes underwater.

Pat: Oh, those young Renewables think they're so smart with their statistics and their graphs. I tell you the Fossils are hot and they're not giving up.

Fred: My daughter tells me that "natural gas" actually is methane, CH<sub>4</sub>. That's carbon with four hydrogen atoms. She calculated that our BGE bill showing 1,052 therms for heat and cooking emitted 5.62 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent. Imagine that! My townhouse generates over five tons of greenhouse gas! Who knew? She says it creates a blanket that traps heat and lasts for about 100 years. I made the mistake of calling her a "tree hugger" and she sat me down for 50 PowerPoint slides that convinced me that science matters.

Pat: Renewables want the Commissioner to eliminate the Free Pollution Rule. Renewables say that if Fossils had to pay about \$10-\$15 per ton of pollution, it would level the field. The refs look the other way when Fossils pollute, so solar farms and wind turbines are hard to sell.

Fred: My daughter says that Commissioner Hogan will be a superhero if he eliminates the Free Pollution Rule and quarterback the **Climate Crisis and Education Act (CCEA)** across the finish line. She says that Renewable fans across the county will sing his praises.

For these reasons and more, I David Saunders urge a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB0076.

Respectfully submitted,

**David Saunders CC-P\***, Volunteer with Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN)  
410-456-8542 cell

**\*Climate Change Professional (CC-P), Certified by the Association of Climate Change Officers and the State of Maryland**

Cc: Members of the Budget and Finance Committee

# **CCEA Testimony Bronwyn Patterson (1).pdf**

Uploaded by: Smeltzer, Petra

Position: FAV

**January 29, 2021**

**BILL:** SB 76  
**TITLE:** Climate Crisis and Education Act  
**POSITION:** Support  
**HEARING DATE:** 2/2/2021  
**COMMITTEE:** Budget and Taxation  
**Sponsor:** Senator Benjamin Kramer

Dear Member of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

I am writing to support SB 76.

Growing up in Annapolis, I have seen firsthand the effects of climate change. The rising sea levels we were learning about in my 4th grade classroom really hit home when we had to take an alternate route to school because downtown Annapolis was under a foot of water. Everyone has seen Annapolis flooded at one time or another. If climate change is not addressed, these floods will not only continue but will cost both homeowners and the Maryland government millions of dollars in remediation. According to research by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and Salisbury University, Maryland stands to lose roughly 8.2 BILLION in direct economic losses from flood damage. I believe SB 76's action to reduce fossil fuel emissions, and therefore reduce effects of climate change, will help Maryland avoid this unnecessary and crippling expenditure.

The Climate Crisis and Education Act, SB 76, discourages the use of fossil fuels within the state of Maryland. The funds from the CCEA's fossil fuel fees will direct \$350 million to the MD public education system, and I feel this is an incredible opportunity to raise our schools to the highest level. As a current senior at South River High School and a graduate of Annapolis Middle School, I know that our school system can be improved. I love my school, and I want to see the curriculum, resources, and campuses available to students be the best that they can. SB 76 provides a pragmatic approach to educational spending that will not drain Maryland's budget, and is an opportunity for our schools to become national leaders in education.

SB 76 will not only direct funds to education, but also to low/middle income households and energy-intensive trade exposed businesses (EITE) who are reliant on fossil fuels. I urge you to recognize climate justice as not only an environmental issue, but a social one. Maryland's land is shared by people of all colors, incomes, and backgrounds, and intersectional environmentalism must be taken into account in all legislative spaces where Maryland's environment is discussed. Communities of color

and low income communities are disproportionately burdened with health hazards from policies that force them to live in close proximity to sources of air pollution and toxic waste, such as coal processing plants, sewage works, mines, and landfills. Climate justice is NOT justice if it is not inclusive of all citizens, and the protection of those who suffer the most from climate change is crucial.

The preservation of our Earth, the protection of the marginalized, the transformation that we all want to see in this country- it has been left to each and every one of us. Climate change is a generational issue, and it will take all of us together to turn our planet around. We have a duty to protect our resources and our people that is not political, but moral. Would anyone pass up the chance to do what they could, to be the change for good in our society? SB 76, the Climate Crisis and Education Act, will launch Maryland to the forefront of intersectional environmentalism and educational reform. It is a practical solution to a critical problem, and it is a bill that as a young Marylander I can proudly point to as a tangible promise of Maryland's commitment to fighting climate change.

For these reasons, I urge a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB 76.

Respectfully submitted,

**Bronwyn Patterson**

**64 River Drive Annapolis, MD 21403**

**[apattersonSTEM2021@gmail.com](mailto:apattersonSTEM2021@gmail.com)**

**443-995-1437**

# January 29.pdf

Uploaded by: Smeltzer, Petra

Position: FAV

**January 29, 2021**

**BILL:** SB0076  
**TITLE:** Climate Crisis and Education Act  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT  
**HEARING DATE:** 2/2/2021  
**COMMITTEE:** Budget and Taxation  
**SPONSOR:** Senator Benjamin Kramer

Dear Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

I am a resident in Leg. District 15 and I would like to be on record that I support SB 76, The Climate Crisis and Education Act as sponsored by Sen. Ben Kramer. We are living in a critical time where severe weather, caused by climate change, has pounded Maryland's shores and infrastructure and affected the most vulnerable people who can least afford to ward off the devastating effects of climate change. This bill would set in motion a process of mitigation measures which compensates for external effects of damage caused by climate change.

Carbon pricing is the most efficient and cost-effective way to reduce GHG emission while incentivizing green energy. By putting an increasing fee on fossil fuels at point of entry in Md, the Bill's market-based approach, incentivizes the reduction in fossil fuel CO2 emissions. Further, the bill will set Maryland on path to achieving net zero emissions by 2045. It sets a statewide GHG reduction goals of 60 % by 2030 and 100% by 2045 consistent with the recommendation of the IPCC.

Finally, the bill's market based solution will generate billions of dollars to help fund critical programs. The Bill establishes separate funds for education to fund the Kirwan Initiative, resilient infrastructure, and most importantly, household and employee benefits to offset and defray increasing costs of moving toward a clean energy economy to help vulnerable communities' transition to a clean energy economy in a just manner.

For these reasons and more, I Petra M. Smeltzer, urge a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB0076.

Respectfully submitted,

**Petra Smeltzer**  
**11525 Cherry Grove Dr.**  
**North Potomac, MD**  
**202-304-9995**  
**smeltzerp@gmail.com**

I am a resident in Leg. District 15 and I would like to put on record that I support SB 76, The Climate Crisis and Education Act as sponsored by Sen. Ben Kramer. We are living in a critical time where severe weather, caused by climate change, has pounded Maryland's shores and infrastructure and affected the most vulnerable people who can least afford to ward off the devastating effects of climate change. This bill would set in motion a process of mitigation measures which compensates for external effects of damage caused by climate change.

Carbon pricing is the most efficient and cost-effective way to reduce GHG emission while incentivizing green energy. By putting an increasing fee on fossil fuels at point of entry in Md, the Bill's market-based approach, incentivizes the reduction in fossil fuel CO2 emissions. Further, the bill will set Maryland on path to achieving net zero emissions by 2045. It sets a statewide GHG reduction goals of 60 % by 2030 and 100% by 2045 consistent with the recommendation of the IPCC.

Finally, the bill's market based solution will generate billions of dollars to help fund critical programs. The Bill establishes separate funds for education to fund the Kirwan Initiative, resilient infrastructure, and most importantly, household and employee benefits to offset and defray increasing costs of moving toward a clean energy economy to help communities' transition in a fair and equitable manner to a clean energy economy.

# **SB 76 Fr. Ray Chase Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Smeltzer, Petra

Position: FAV



January 27, 2021

TO: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
RE: SB76 and HB33 Climate Crisis and Education Act  
POSITION: SUPPORT  
HEARING DATE: Feb. 2, 2021

I'm writing to you in support of HB33/SB76 Climate Crisis & Education Act. I have always felt actions taken in the present must not only address present needs but do so within an important larger context or framework, i.e. what will the future look like with or without this particular bill. I fully understand this bill will have financial costs for some in the short term but within the larger context of the future it may ultimately prevent much larger expenditures required to repair the environment...if it can be repaired.

As we rightfully look at caring for one another in the present, it is equally essential we look beyond ourselves and care for those who will come after us. In my mind's eye, to support this bill is ultimately an act of compassion toward ourselves, those who will come after us as well as toward the environment without which we cannot thrive.

Lastly, for some unexplained reason we've come to believe the created world is at our disposal. It simply isn't and to believe so is more than problematic. We're part of the rest of the created world which means we must provide proper care for it which, in doing so, actually equally cares for ourselves who are part of it.

Thank you for reading and reflecting on what I want to share with you. I sincerely hope you will give very thoughtful consideration to the full range of issues that are embodied in this bill and will ultimately support it.

Sincerely,

Fr. Ray Chase  
1324 Greenbriar Circle  
Pikesville, MD  
443-452-8800  
bubrc@aol.com  
cc: Sen. Hettleman and Del. Cardin

# **SB 76 Hope Clark District 36 Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Smeltzer, Petra

Position: FAV

**January 29, 2021**

**BILL: SB0076**  
**TITLE: Climate Crisis and Education Act**  
**POSITION: SUPPORT**  
**HEARING DATE: 2/2/2021**  
**COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation**  
**SPONSOR: Senator Benjamin Kramer**

Dear Members of the Committee,

I live in Chestertown, MD, where I see flooding on a regular basis, and soil erosion eating away at our land accumulatively every year. We don't have time to wait.

Farmers are losing their land due to salt water intrusion. Waterfront businesses are losing revenue due to flooding. Waterman's businesses are being affected by acidification of the Bay and water salination changes. Commercial and personal properties are devaluing at an alarming rate. Our economy is suffering and it is only going to get worse. We need a solution.

The Climate Crisis and Education Act is a win, win on all fronts. It incrementally raises the price of fossil fuels, a main cause of the greenhouse gas emissions changing our climate and these noted adverse effects. The funds collected will support the green infrastructure we need for a just transition and contribute to desperately needed funds for education in our State. Every one wins.

For these reasons and more, I, Hope Clark, Chestertown Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter Leader urge a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB0076.

Respectfully submitted,

**Hope Clark**  
**Group Leader**  
**Citizens' Climate Lobby Chestertown Chapter**  
**410 778 9031**

Cc: Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

# **SB 76 Kathy Younkin Testimony (1).pdf**

Uploaded by: Smeltzer, Petra

Position: FAV

January 27, 2021

TO: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
RE: SB76 and HB33 Climate Crisis and Education Act  
POSITION: SUPPORT  
HEARING DATE: Feb. 2, 2021

Most Distinguished Representative:

I have supported moving away from fossil fuels for a long time. Half of my home electricity is generated by a solar field. We need to get more serious about this effort. Especially with the previous nay-sayer in the White House, we need to catch-up the Climate Change efforts.

Please support bills HB33 and SB76.

Establishing a Climate Crisis Initiative in the Department of the Environment for certain purposes; establishing a greenhouse gas reduction target of 60% from 2006 levels by 2030 and net-zero by 2045; establishing a Climate Crisis Council to develop a plan to reach the reduction targets and submit it to the General Assembly by December 31, 2022; requiring the Council to have the plan verified in a certain manner; requiring a greenhouse gas pollution fee on all fossil fuels brought into the State for combustion in the State. Direct the collected pollution fees to the Kirwan Commission Education Fund.

Respectfully submitted

Kathleen Younkin  
5275 Five Fingers Way  
Columbia MD 21045  
kyounkin@comcast.net

cc:  
Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary  
Delegate Shane Pendergrass  
Delegate Jen Terrasa

**SB 76 Lawrence Liebesman Testimony.docx (1).pdf**

Uploaded by: Smeltzer, Petra

Position: FAV

**STATEMENT OF LAWRENCE R. LIEBESMAN, ESQ**

**SB 0076, CLIMATE CRISIS AND EDUCATION ACT**

**SUPPORT**

**MARYLAND SENATE, BUDGET & TAXATION COMMITTEE**

**HEARING on February 2, 2021**

My name is Larry Liebesman. I am submitting these comments in strong support of SB 0076, The Climate Crisis and Education Act ( SB 0076)

I have practiced environmental law for over 45 years having served at EPA and as a Senior Trial Attorney at the Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division. I have been an adjunct professor of environmental law at GW Law School where I taught wildlife law focusing on the serious impact of climate change on species habitat. I also sit on the Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board ( ESB) focusing on the water resource and resiliency impacts of climate change. I have been monitoring the meetings of the Maryland Climate Change Commission charged with developing a plan to meet the mandate of the GHG Reduction Act, signed into law by Governor Hogan, to achieve a 40% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 from a 2006 baseline. **MARYLAND FACES SEVERE RISKS FROM THE CLIMATE CRISIS REQUIRING URGENT ACTION NOW.** In my view there are two strong reasons that justify this important legislation.

**FIRST, THE BILL WILL SET MARYLAND ON PATH TO ACHIEVING NET ZERO EMISSIONS BY 2045**

The Bill will set statewide GHG reduction goals of 60 % by 2030 and 100% by 2045 consistent with the recommendation of the IPCC. **Economists agree that carbon pricing is the most efficient and cost-effective way to reduce GHG emission while incentivizing green energy. In fact, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen stated at her recent confirmation hearing that "we cannot solve the climate crisis without effect carbon pricing."** By putting an increasing fee on fossil fuels at point of entry in Md, the Bill's market-based approach, incentivizes the reduction in fossil fuel CO2 emissions It would put Maryland on a commonsense pathway to a sustainable vibrant economy. The Bill also provides a way to even exceed the current 40% CHG reduction goal in the GGRA and reach a 60% reduction by 2030. The Bill will complement programs such as Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and the Transportation Climate Initiative ( TCI).

**SECOND, THE BILL'S MARKET BASED SOLUTION WILL GENERATE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO HELP FUND CRITICAL PROGRAMS SUCH AS THE KIRWIN EDUCATION INITIATIVE AND PROVIDE AN EQUITABLE TRANSITION TO A CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY**

The Bill establishes separate funds for education, green infrastructure and household and employee benefits. The fees on fossil fuels and on high polluting vehicles generated under the Bill will deliver:

- \$350 M /yr. to help fund the Kirwin Education Fund
- \$180 M in year one and more than \$500 M in year ten to fund infrastructure needs
- \$490 M in yr. one and more than \$850M in year ten to provide benefits to protect low -income households
- Protects consumers by prohibiting the fossil fuel companies from passing the fee on to consumers and by giving low and middle income consumers dividends from the revenue
- Provides dividends to protect Maryland energy intensive trade exposed industries and protects local jobs
- Invests hundreds of millions of dollars into clean, renewable energy

These funds will help communities' transition in a fair and equitable manner to a clean energy economy. Further, based on a January 14, 2020 opinion from the Office of Attorney General, there appears to be no legal impediment to the General Assembly "prohibiting carbon polluters from passing through costs of a carbon tax onto their customers." The Bill will also create an expert based Climate Crisis Council that will develop policy recommendations to achieve the pollution reduction goals of the Act, to fund education through the Kirwan Initiative and to ensure that low and moderate-income households and impacted employers are protected from financial harm.

I urge the Committee to favorably report this important legislation

Respectfully

Lawrence R. Liebesman, Esq.  
5682 Vantage Pt. Rd.  
Columbia, MD 21044  
(410) 707- 0413  
larry.liebesman@gmail.com



# **SB 76 Marilyn Carlisle Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Smeltzer, Petra

Position: FAV

**TO: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**  
**Re: SB 76/HB 33 The Climate and Crisis Education Act**  
**Hearing Date: Feb. 2, 2021**  
**Support**

Dear Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

I am passionate about the environment and, even on a low Early Head Start salary, I was so determined to have solar panels on my house that I borrowed from my retirement fund to do so. This should show you that I would logically support HRB0033 and SB0076, asking you to do the same (and as soon as I can I will be buying an electric vehicle}.

The provisions of this bill, making the fossil fuel polluters pay for us to ameliorate the effects of climate change, is a very logical and just proposal. In addition, the revenue gathered will be reinvested to help our most vulnerable populations to deal with transition to a clean economy in a just manner. In addition, the bill addresses the changes in Md. infrastructure which will be necessary for more resiliency.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Carlisle  
1238 Ramblewood Road  
Baltimore, MD 21239  
carlmari23@yahoo.com

# **SB 76 Nancy Koran Testimony (1).pdf**

Uploaded by: Smeltzer, Petra

Position: FAV

Bill: SB0076  
Title: Climate Crisis and Education Act  
Position: Support  
Hearing date: 2/2/2021  
Committee: Budget and Taxation  
Sponsor: Sen. Benjamin Kramer

I am a 45-year resident of Montgomery County, MD and a long-time supporter of green energy. I believe this bill is hugely important and especially timely. It offers many benefits for Maryland residents: an estimated infusion of \$350 million per year into education; protections for energy-related local jobs; help for the communities that face the brunt of climate change, and more.

But the most important benefit is the hundreds of millions of dollars that will go into projects to mitigate greenhouse gases under the bill's Climate Crisis and Infrastructure Fund. Because right now, we need a LOT of mitigation to save our environment.

Major wind-energy projects from New England to Virginia are behind schedule from regulatory delays and covid-19 challenges. That includes the 120-megawatt Skipjack off the coast of Ocean City, MD. Meanwhile, on land, proposed solar farms face strong NIMBY (not in my backyard) opposition. Just last week, the Montgomery County Council voted down a proposal that would have permitted small community solar farms in the county's 93,000-acre agricultural preserve. NIMBY pressure killed the plan.

Across the country and overseas, wind and solar projects are being scuttled by local residents crying NIMBY. We need strong governmental backing to create green projects and technologies that can mitigate fossil fuel emissions. And we need governmental backing to move these projects from the drawing board into reality. This bill's Climate Crisis and Infrastructure Fund will help fund and accelerate the shift away from fossil fuels. And the bill will make fossil fuel companies, whose products created the climate crisis, pay for that shift through market-based mechanisms. I think the bill's ability to mitigate climate change needs to be expanded and spotlighted.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Koran

301-652-2923 nancykoran@hotmail.com

Cc: Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

# **SB 76 Peggy Meyer Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Smeltzer, Petra

Position: FAV

MS. PEGGY A. MEYER  
33 Andrew Place, Baltimore, Md 21201

Bill: SB0076  
Title: Climate Crisis and Education Act  
Position: Support  
Hearing date: 2/2/2021  
Committee: Budget and Taxation  
Sponsor: Sen. Benjamin Kramer

Dear Members of the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee:

I participated in the zoom lobby night for the Maryland **HB33/SB76 Climate Crisis & Education Act** and would appreciate your support for this bill. I think it is critical to address climate issues and racial inequity.

Black people are three times as likely to suffer from pollution and the systemic racism that pervades our society needs to change. This bill takes a step towards that goal.

Global warming is such a danger and we need bold action to address it. I love that this bill passes the cost of pollution, to the polluters, those emitting greenhouse gases, and collects fossil fuel fees and directs \$ to low income households, \$ to transition workers and communities dependent on fossil fuel to clean energy, and \$ to MD schools in most need. We need to accomplish this and I appreciate your support!

Sincerely yours,

Peggy A. Meyer

pa.meyer@comcast.net

# **SB 76 Susan Woodman Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Smeltzer, Petra

Position: FAV



**January 29, 2021**

**BILL:** SB0076  
**TITLE:** Climate Crisis and Education Act  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT  
**HEARING DATE:** 2/2/2021  
**COMMITTEE:** Budget and Taxation  
**SPONSOR:** Senator Benjamin Kramer

I am writing this letter to request your support of HB33/SB76. Our day of reckoning is here. We have all benefited in some way by industrial/corporate abuse of our natural resources. But it is long past due to put people above profit.

Time for the polluters to be held accountable and be required to pay for the harm caused to the land, water and air but especially to those who have suffered and died as a result of polluting facilities in their neighborhoods.

And if we are being honest, we know those are poor communities and communities of color who don't have the resources to fight these installations. We have a moral obligation to correct these injustices.

Respectfully Submitted

Susan Woodman  
4233 Belmar Ave, Baltimore 21206.  
Phone is 443 438-4579  
[slwoodman2@gmail.com](mailto:slwoodman2@gmail.com)



**Bill Testimony Andrea Power District 36.pdf**

Uploaded by: Stewart, Frances

Position: FAV

**January 29, 2021**

**BILL:** SB0076  
**TITLE:** Climate Crisis and Education Act  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT  
**HEARING DATE:** 2/2/2021  
**COMMITTEE:** Budget and Taxation  
**SPONSOR:** Senator Benjamin Kramer

Dear Members of the Committee,

Please support SB0076. We don't have time for inaction. Climate change is impacting our waterways, soil, economy and life itself.

Here in Kent County where my family and I live, rising waters are taking away land from farmers and residents and revenue from businesses. People who earn their living from oysters, crabs and fish in the Bay are seeing their way of life disappear from rising temperatures and changes in water salinity that are killing aquatic life. Beyond the measure of money is a greater question: what kind of world do we want to leave our children? We need a solution.

The Climate Crisis and Education Act is a solid answer all around. It incrementally increases the price of fossil fuels, a main driver the greenhouse gas emissions that are impacting life in our state and everywhere on our planet. The funds collected will support the green infrastructure for a just transition and contribute to desperately needed funds for education in our State. Every one wins.

For these reasons and more, I, Andrea Power, a member of Chestertown Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter, urge a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB0076.

Respectfully,

**Andrea Power**  
**Member**  
**Citizens' Climate Lobby Chestertown Chapter**  
**301-575-6826**

Cc: Members of the Budget and Finance Committee

# **SB 76 Frances Stewart testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Stewart, Frances

Position: FAV

**January 29, 2021**

**BILL: SB 76**  
**TITLE: Climate Crisis and Education Act**  
**POSITION: SUPPORT**  
**HEARING DATE: 2/2/2021**  
**COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation**  
**SPONSOR: Senator Benjamin Kramer**

I am writing to express my strong support for the 2021 Climate Crisis and Education Act. As you know, climate change will have a wide variety of serious adverse effects on Maryland, the United States, and the world. As a physician and a retired Navy officer, I am acutely aware of the dangers to public health and to our national security.

Climate change is one of the greatest threats to our public health. The health effects include more vector-borne disease, more heat-related illnesses such as heat stroke, injuries from wildfires and from extreme weather events such as hurricanes and floods, and mental health problems. These issues threaten the lives and health of all Maryland residents, particularly children and the elderly.

One thing that is less often recognized is the close tie between air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. 88% of Maryland residents live in areas that do not meet EPA air quality standards. Air pollution is a major contributor to absences from work and school, increased healthcare costs, and premature deaths. This can be seen clearly in the high rates of hospitalization for asthma in Maryland and especially in Baltimore. We also see higher death rates from Covid-19 in areas that have high levels of air pollution. This is particularly a problem for low income and minority communities because of the locations of highways, factories, etc. Research shows that decreases in air pollution lead to significant and rapid decreases in asthma hospitalizations. Improvements in health, especially in children, will be the first benefit we see from decreasing the use of fossil fuels.

Military and national security experts have known for years that climate change is a threat multiplier. It has been a factor in the conflict in Syria and the increasing number of migrants from Central America who are driven by poverty and hunger after years of drought. In Maryland, the biggest climate related issues for the military are damage to bases located on or near the coast and heat waves that interfere with training and operations. I see it when I look at the places I've been stationed. In Bethesda, I see more black flag days when soldiers and sailors aren't permitted to exercise outdoors because of the danger from high temperatures. In Annapolis, I see it in the rising sea level and flooding that threaten the Naval Academy.

It is too late to prevent many of the effects of climate change, but if we act quickly, we can do a great deal to mitigate the effects and to adapt to what we cannot avoid. I believe the Climate Crisis and Education Act would be a tremendous help in meeting the challenges we face. Putting a price on carbon is a step recommended by distinguished economists from both parties including Nobel laureates. The dividends that the Climate Crisis and Education Act provides would protect low and middle-income Maryland families from any costs that might increase.

The money that goes into the Green Infrastructure Fund would help state and local governments make the investments Maryland needs to thrive in a low carbon economy by making improvements in energy and transportation, providing a just transition for displaced workers, and building resilience in communities

throughout the state. The money that goes to help fund the Kirwan Commission recommendations would help prepare our children for the very challenging future they face.

Some may argue that Maryland only emits a small fraction of the United States' greenhouse gas emissions and does not need to do this. But we know that we only have a few short years to make major changes if we want to ensure a livable world for our children. We also know that our Federal government is stuck in gridlock. Maryland has the opportunity to be a leader on this important issue. That is an opportunity we must take for every person in Maryland and all who will come after us.

Respectfully submitted,  
Frances Stewart, M.D.  
Captain (retired), Medical Corps, United States Navy  
301-718-0446  
Frances.stewart6@gmail.com

cc: Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

# **SB 76 Marilyn Carlisle Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Stewart, Frances

Position: FAV



**TO: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**  
**Re: SB 76/HB 33 The Climate and Crisis Education Act**  
**Hearing Date: Feb. 2, 2021**  
**Support**

Dear Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

I am passionate about the environment and, even on a low Early Head Start salary, I was so determined to have solar panels on my house that I borrowed from my retirement fund to do so. This should show you that I would logically support HRB0033 and SB0076, asking you to do the same (and as soon as I can I will be buying an electric vehicle}.

The provisions of this bill, making the fossil fuel polluters pay for us to ameliorate the effects of climate change, is a very logical and just proposal. In addition, the revenue gathered will be reinvested to help our most vulnerable populations to deal with transition to a clean economy in a just manner. In addition, the bill addresses the changes in Md. infrastructure which will be necessary for more resiliency.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Carlisle  
1238 Ramblewood Road  
Baltimore, MD 21239  
carlmari23@yahoo.com

# **SB 76 Nancy Koran Testimony (1).pdf**

Uploaded by: Stewart, Frances

Position: FAV

Bill: SB0076  
Title: Climate Crisis and Education Act  
Position: Support  
Hearing date: 2/2/2021  
Committee: Budget and Taxation  
Sponsor: Sen. Benjamin Kramer

I am a 45-year resident of Montgomery County, MD and a long-time supporter of green energy. I believe this bill is hugely important and especially timely. It offers many benefits for Maryland residents: an estimated infusion of \$350 million per year into education; protections for energy-related local jobs; help for the communities that face the brunt of climate change, and more.

But the most important benefit is the hundreds of millions of dollars that will go into projects to mitigate greenhouse gases under the bill's Climate Crisis and Infrastructure Fund. Because right now, we need a LOT of mitigation to save our environment.

Major wind-energy projects from New England to Virginia are behind schedule from regulatory delays and covid-19 challenges. That includes the 120-megawatt Skipjack off the coast of Ocean City, MD. Meanwhile, on land, proposed solar farms face strong NIMBY (not in my backyard) opposition. Just last week, the Montgomery County Council voted down a proposal that would have permitted small community solar farms in the county's 93,000-acre agricultural preserve. NIMBY pressure killed the plan.

Across the country and overseas, wind and solar projects are being scuttled by local residents crying NIMBY. We need strong governmental backing to create green projects and technologies that can mitigate fossil fuel emissions. And we need governmental backing to move these projects from the drawing board into reality. This bill's Climate Crisis and Infrastructure Fund will help fund and accelerate the shift away from fossil fuels. And the bill will make fossil fuel companies, whose products created the climate crisis, pay for that shift through market-based mechanisms. I think the bill's ability to mitigate climate change needs to be expanded and spotlighted.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Koran

301-652-2923 nancykoran@hotmail.com

Cc: Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

**Sb 76 Patricia Bahr Testimony(1).pdf**

Uploaded by: Stewart, Frances

Position: FAV

January 29, 2021

**TO: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**

**Re: SB 76/HB 33 The Climate and Crisis Education Act**

**Hearing Date: Feb. 2, 2021**

### **Support**

Dear Members of the Committee:

I live in Baltimore City district 46 (Canton) and support House Bill 33 and Senate Bill 76.

Lessening pollution, especially in certain areas of the city, must be a priority of state laws to help make these areas more livable. Citizens' health must be considered a priority, too.

Please let it be on record that I support these bills.

Patricia Bahr  
2901 Boston Street  
Apt 609  
Baltimore, Md 21224  
[Bahrpat@aol.com](mailto:Bahrpat@aol.com)

# **SB 76 Peggy Meyer Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Stewart, Frances

Position: FAV

MS. PEGGY A. MEYER  
33 Andrew Place, Baltimore, Md 21201

Bill: SB0076  
Title: Climate Crisis and Education Act  
Position: Support  
Hearing date: 2/2/2021  
Committee: Budget and Taxation  
Sponsor: Sen. Benjamin Kramer

Dear Members of the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee:

I participated in the zoom lobby night for the Maryland **HB33/SB76 Climate Crisis & Education Act** and would appreciate your support for this bill. I think it is critical to address climate issues and racial inequity.

Black people are three times as likely to suffer from pollution and the systemic racism that pervades our society needs to change. This bill takes a step towards that goal.

Global warming is such a danger and we need bold action to address it. I love that this bill passes the cost of pollution, to the polluters, those emitting greenhouse gases, and collects fossil fuel fees and directs \$ to low income households, \$ to transition workers and communities dependent on fossil fuel to clean energy, and \$ to MD schools in most need. We need to accomplish this and I appreciate your support!

Sincerely yours,

Peggy A. Meyer

pa.meyer@comcast.net



# **SB 76 Susan Woodman Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Stewart, Frances

Position: FAV

**January 29, 2021**

**BILL:** SB0076  
**TITLE:** Climate Crisis and Education Act  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT  
**HEARING DATE:** 2/2/2021  
**COMMITTEE:** Budget and Taxation  
**SPONSOR:** Senator Benjamin Kramer

I am writing this letter to request your support of HB33/SB76. Our day of reckoning is here. We have all benefited in some way by industrial/corporate abuse of our natural resources. But it is long past due to put people above profit.

Time for the polluters to be held accountable and be required to pay for the harm caused to the land, water and air but especially to those who have suffered and died as a result of polluting facilities in their neighborhoods.

And if we are being honest, we know those are poor communities and communities of color who don't have the resources to fight these installations. We have a moral obligation to correct these injustices.

Respectfully Submitted

Susan Woodman  
4233 Belmar Ave, Baltimore 21206.  
Phone is 443 438-4579  
[slwoodman2@gmail.com](mailto:slwoodman2@gmail.com)



# **SB 76 Zac Pinard.pdf**

Uploaded by: Stewart, Frances

Position: FAV

**(1/26/21)**

**BILL: SB0076**  
**TITLE: Climate Crisis and Education Act**  
**POSITION: SUPPORT**  
**HEARING DATE: 2/2/2021**  
**COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation**  
**SPONSOR: Senator Benjamin Kramer**

There is a lot of coverage about how dire the climate crisis is, but there is far less coverage about potential solutions. The Climate Crisis and Education Act is a very promising potential solution. The CCEA would put a price on carbon emissions, internalizing the cost and shifting the financial burden of mitigating climate change from the taxpayer and onto the emitter.

Thus far, most proposed policy solutions to climate change involve significant investment from some government funding source, and emitting companies are required to meet some agreed upon standard in order to try and reduce emissions. This implies that it is the government's responsibility to determine how to reduce emissions from private industries, and it is the responsibility of the emitters themselves just to do just what the government requires of them. This incentive system is fundamentally flawed, and has done little to combat the runaway climate change the scientific community has warned us about. The financial responsibility for emissions should clearly lie with the emitters, not the taxpayer-funded government. The most direct way to correct this incentive problem is to make emitters directly financially responsible for their own emissions by putting a price on carbon.

This carbon pricing step should have been taken a generation ago, but we all have an ethical responsibility to take it now and to protect the stability of our climate system for those who plan to stay on this planet permanently, including myself and my future children. For these reasons and more, I Zac Pinard of Climate XChange Maryland, urge a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB0076.

Respectfully submitted,

**Zac Pinard**  
**(SCPN Fellow)**  
**(Climate XChange Maryland)**  
**925-699-5459**

Cc: Members of the Budget and Finance Committee

# **Testimony for CCEA.Julia H.pdf**

Uploaded by: Stewart, Frances

Position: FAV

**1/29/21**

**BILL:** SB0076  
**TITLE:** Climate Crisis and Education Act  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT  
**HEARING DATE:** 2/2/2021  
**COMMITTEE:** Budget and Taxation  
**SPONSOR:** Senator Benjamin Kramer

I'm Julia Hananel, and I'm an eighteen year old student at University of Maryland, where I'm a member of the AcClimate environmental club.

Like many other students my age, climate change has been on my mind throughout my teenage years. We've heard about the disastrous and deadly consequences that we'll face if we don't curb rising temperatures. Climate change looms in our minds when my friends and I talk about our future. In these conversations, there is more anxiety and uncertainty than there is excitement -- will we be able to live somewhere with healthy enough air quality to breathe? Can we find somewhere without severe, destructive weather patterns? There are fewer and fewer places that meet these criteria.

We've been betrayed by previous generations, and are now left with a seemingly apocalyptic future. We're frustrated with the lack of leadership on climate change, and elected officials who don't seem to care about our future. Like many other students, I've channeled my frustration into action.

I'm part of a generation that has challenged the status quo and stood up for our safety and our future. We've skipped school to protest for climate action, knowing that our education is meaningless if there is no hope for a healthy planet. We've organized, protested, and delivered record-setting youth voter turnout in the 2018 midterms and in the 2020 general election. I've been organizing and protesting for my future before I could even vote.

Maryland's coastal location makes it one of the most vulnerable states when it comes to the impacts of climate change. Low-lying areas like Annapolis are already dealing with frequent flooding. Our farms will suffer more and more from rising temperatures and droughts.

Bold climate action is long overdue, and the Climate Crisis and Education Act is an excellent place to start. As someone who has gone through the Maryland public school system K through 12, I am excited to have a bill that addresses climate change while providing funds for our schools.

I'm proud to be from Maryland, and I want to be proud of the work Maryland does on climate. My generation would be proud to see a bill passed like the CCEA.

For these reasons and more, I, Julia Hananel from AcClimate, urge a favorable report on SB0076.

Respectfully submitted,

**Julia Hananel**  
**9204 Wilmett Court**  
**juleshananel@gmail.com**  
**301-385-0231**

cc: Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee



**William Lemoine CCEA Testimony 1\_29.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Stewart, Frances

Position: FAV

**1/29/2021**

**BILL: SB0076**  
**TITLE: Climate Crisis and Education Act**  
**POSITION: SUPPORT**  
**HEARING DATE: 2/2/2021**  
**COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation**  
**SPONSOR: Senator Benjamin Kramer**

Dear Members of the Committee,

I believe I speak for a great deal of students and young adults when I say the effects of climate change, knowingly or otherwise, influence a great deal of our decisions, worries, and anxieties on a daily basis. Now is the time to act to alleviate the consequences of climate change, and I ask you to consider SB0076. Maryland, a state that relies largely on its relationship with the Chesapeake and Atlantic Ocean, can't afford to be complacent and wait for solutions as water levels continue to rise. SB0076 provides the opportunity to place Maryland on the forefront of combating climate change, all the while enhancing the quality of life for state residents. Reinvesting fees collected by burning harmful fossil fuels will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60% in 2030 and place \$350 million into public education every year. I implore you to think of future generations of all Marylanders and consider supporting SB0076.

For these reasons and more, I, William Lemoine, from Climate-XChange Maryland urge a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB0076.

Respectfully submitted,

**William Lemoine**  
**Climate-XChange Fellow**  
**Climate-XChange**

Cc: Members of the Budget and Finance Committee

# **2021 MDPHA-testimony\_SUPPORT SB0076 Climate Crisis**

Uploaded by: Weiss, Erica

Position: FAV



**Maryland  
Public Health  
Association**

Mission: To improve public health in Maryland through education and advocacy

Vision: Healthy Marylanders living in Healthy Communities

---

**SB0076 Climate Crisis and Education Act**

**Hearing Date: 2/2/21**

**Committee: Budget and Taxation**

**Position: SUPPORT**

Thank you, Chair, Senator Guzzone and Vice-Chair Senator Rosapepe, for giving us this opportunity to submit this testimony on behalf of the Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA) in SUPPORT of the very important SB0076 – Climate Crisis and Education Act.

Without question, climate change is an urgent public health threat. The Maryland Public Health Association is, therefore, compelled to support the common sense purpose of SB0076 to incentivize the reduction of carbon pollution emissions with a practical path toward a sustainable, vibrant economy in Maryland. This bill tackles the urgent need to reach net-zero emissions, and at the same time, raises much-needed revenue to fund education and green infrastructure. The bill also protects those who have been most burdened by the impacts of pollution to date, namely low-income, and predominantly Black and Brown communities.

From extreme heat, flooding, air pollution, and extreme storms, climate change increasingly impacts health across the state. Exposure to extreme heat or elevated levels of air pollution (such as ozone and particulate pollution) contributes to heat-related illnesses and significantly increases the risk of hospitalization for asthma, heart attacks, cardiovascular disease, and premature death.<sup>1</sup> These health effects are preventable. Yet, without smart policies to change the current climate trajectory, we can expect untenable health care costs over time. It's more economically important to INVEST NOW in climate-protective strategies to prevent projected problems - as opposed to spending wasteful money later on infrastructure repairs and medical bills. Evidence-based strategies to prevent problems is the foundation for public health.

Over the past year we have seen how interconnected the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, air pollution, and inequity are. A robust study by Harvard recently found that even a small increase in long-term particulate (PM2.5) exposure led to an 11% increase in the COVID-19 death rate.<sup>2</sup> The burning of fossil fuels is one of the biggest contributors to deadly air pollution, such as particle pollution. Communities of color and low-income communities bear a disproportionate burden from fossil fuel pollution. The environmental justice and health equity components of this bill are critical to ensuring that everyone benefits from a transition to a clean energy future, especially those overburdened by fossil fuel pollution.

What the pandemic has shown us, is that we must treat COVID-19, climate change, and health inequities in tandem. The Climate Crisis and Education Act is an investment in this effort. It sets smart goals to help Maryland reach zero-emissions and makes smart investments in clean energy infrastructure and education. Please support SB0076.

*The Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA) is a nonprofit, statewide organization of public health professionals dedicated to improving the lives of all Marylanders through education and advocacy in support of healthy Marylanders living in healthy communities. MdPHA is the state affiliate of the American Public Health Association, a nearly 145-year-old professional organization dedicated to improving population health and reducing the health disparities that plague our state and our nation.*

---

<sup>1</sup><https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Marylander/Documents/MCCC/Publications/Reports/MarylandClimateandHealthProfileReport.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>Wu X, Nethery RC, Sabath MB, Braun D, Dominici F. Air pollution and COVID-19 mortality in the United States: Strengths and limitations of an ecological regression analysis. *Science Advances*. 2020;6(45).

**SB76\_StrongFutureMaryland\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Wilkerson, Alice

Position: FAV



**Testimony in Support of SB 76  
Climate Crisis and Education Act (Sen. Kramer)  
FAVORABLE**

February 2, 2021

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

On behalf of Strong Future Maryland, we write in support of SB 76. Strong Future Maryland works to advance bold, progressive policy changes to address systemic inequality and promote a sustainable, just and prosperous economic future for all Marylanders.

Just two weeks ago, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in a 2018 lawsuit filed by Baltimore City, which argues that fossil fuel companies ought to be held accountable for the impacts of climate change.

We agree. In the same vein, this legislation ensures that fossil fuels are held accountable for the real costs they are imposing on our climate, oceans, and health. By creating a Climate Crisis Infrastructure Fund and ensuring that entities who bring fossil fuels into the state are contributing to offset the resulting impacts of that combustion, we are helping to address global warming while weaning our state off of fossil fuels. In addition, we are putting Maryland in a position of leadership on climate legislation and in technological innovation for the future, and investing in our children's future.

Our planet is in the midst of an unprecedented climate crisis, caused by the unsafe and poorly-mitigated burning of fossil fuels. The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has made it overwhelmingly clear that we now have less than 10 years to reduce our climate-disrupting emissions to levels that will avoid the worst impacts of a warming planet. This means the world must cut greenhouse gas emissions dramatically and keep warming below 1.5 degrees celsius to avoid the threat of irreversible climate destabilization. Importantly, the targets set in this legislation to address climate change are consistent with scientific understanding, in particular and at a minimum, the findings of the 2018 IPCC report and the Paris 2015 Agreement goal of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5oC.

As one of the wealthiest states in one of the wealthiest countries in the world, and a location that is uniquely susceptible to changing weather patterns, Maryland has a responsibility to lead with aggressive pollution reduction plans and policies. Maryland must do more for climate action — in the name of environmental justice, for the health of our communities, and for the future of our families. This committee can make a commitment to that work by issuing a favorable report on SB 76.

*John B. King Jr.*

*Alice Wilkerson*

*Founder and Board Chair*

*Executive Director*

# **Bill Testimony Template CCEA\_Winston.pdf**

Uploaded by: Winston, Pamela

Position: FAV



**Pamela Winston**

**BILL:** SB0076  
**TITLE:** Climate Crisis and Education Act  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT  
**HEARING DATE:** 2/2/2021  
**COMMITTEE:** Budget and Taxation  
**SPONSOR:** Senator Benjamin Kramer

Addressing our climate crisis requires a mix of market-based and government approaches to limiting the extent and effects of climate change in Maryland, the nation, and the world. SB0076 provides a pivotal component of this approach in our state. It has been carefully crafted to remedy potential impacts on low-income and vulnerable communities. It also ensures that the revenues raised will go to essential educational, community, and climate-related purposes.

As a 20-year Maryland resident, no issue matters more to me than the effects of climate change on our communities, state, nation, and globe. I urge you to vote for this legislation. The futures of my son and other Maryland children hang in the balance.

For these reasons and more, I urge a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB0076.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Winston

8005 Glenside Drive

Takoma Park, MD 20912

301-442-9305

Cc: Members of the Budget and Finance Committee

# **SB76 - Climate Crisis and Education Act - FAV - Zw**

Uploaded by: Zwerling, Samantha

Position: FAV

**Testimony SUPPORT of Senate Bill 76  
Climate Crisis and Education Act**

**Senate Budget & Taxation Committee  
February 2, 2021**

**Samantha Zwerling  
Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association supports Senate Bill 76, legislation that establishes the Climate Crisis Initiative and aims to dedicate \$350 million a year to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund to help pay for the once-in-a-generation reforms to move our public schools from great to world-class.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our 896,837 students for careers and jobs of the future. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3 million-member National Education Association (NEA).

Over the last four years, educators across the state have been fully engaged in the most critical conversation we have had in a generation: how do we fundamentally, equitably, and sustainably improve our schools and prepare our students for the jobs of today and the future. Those conversations have only intensified with the pandemic. From the beginning, this conversation has appropriately been focused on research-based best practices to develop the policy reforms necessary to make this happen. And from the beginning, it has been clear that supporting these world-class schools and programs would require new investments in state and local funding.

MSEA supports passage of an adequate, sustainable, and predictable revenue stream that will adequately fund both the operating and construction costs of our public schools. A great public school for every child means our students have updated technology, small manageable classes, safe and modern schools, proper healthcare and nutrition, and highly qualified and highly effective educators. The work of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (Kirwan Commission) further recommends improvements to access to pre-k and career technical education, as well as expansion of the educator workforce and increased salaries to help deliver individualized instruction and recruit and retain the best workforce in the country. Senate Bill 76 can be part of the solution for how we fund and deliver these critical policy reforms for the next generation of Marylanders.

For years now, Maryland has shown environmental leadership. Similarly to charging fines for littering or other forms of pollution, Maryland already puts a price on carbon emissions. The state is part of an interstate cap-and-trade cooperative—the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)—that charges fees on power plants for climate pollution. Since it was created, the RGGI has generated over half a billion dollars to help low-income households with energy assistance, energy efficiency, and clean energy programs. That fee is now gradually increasing over the next ten years as a result of regulations put in place by the Hogan Administration.

The Climate Crisis and Education Act takes this successful, bipartisan, and market-based practice and expands the fee on all fossil fuels coming into the state. It's one of several methods before the legislature for modernizing our tax code to fully account for curtailing negative externalities, like climate change, and finding sources of revenue to fund critical programs in the state, including the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

While pricing carbon as a revenue source is inherently temporary if we are to truly address the climate crisis, it is still estimated that this legislation would generate billions of dollars annually long after the Blueprint is fully implemented.

**The Climate Crisis and Education Act is all about creating a better future for our kids and helping to make the Blueprint a reality. That is why MSEA urges actions to fully fund the new formulas associated with the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and supports a favorable report on Senate Bill 76.**

**SB0076\_MCA\_Bailey\_FAV\_AMD.pdf**

Uploaded by: Bailey, Joyce

Position: FWA

## Testimony for SB0076

### Climate Crisis and Education Act

**Committee: Budget and Taxation; Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs**

**Organization: Montgomery Countryside Alliance, Joyce Bailey, Education Chair**

**Position: Favorable**

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committees:

Montgomery Countryside Alliance strongly supports SB0076 and urges your Committees to issue a favorable report.

The Montgomery Countryside Alliance was founded to promote sound economic, land-use and transportation policies that preserve the natural environment, open spaces and rural lands in Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve for the benefit of all Washington Metropolitan area residents.

SB0076 would place a fee on fossil fuel combusted in the State to incentivize the reduction of fossil fuel CO<sup>2</sup> emissions. The fee would escalate gradually, providing business and regulatory certainty to energy companies for future planning. It will make renewable sources of energy more economical, incentivizing energy companies to increase renewable generation in their portfolio. Reducing carbon in our atmosphere is essential for slowing the rate of the climate crisis which affects us all—farmers, business owners, and people across the globe.

If adopted, SB0076 will generate billions of dollars for investment in clean energy infrastructure and education, while providing benefits (rebates) to protect Maryland's low- and moderate-income households and energy-intensive trade-exposed businesses.

While we believe SB0076 would significantly advance efforts to meet the State's greenhouse gas reduction goals, we would suggest some modifications that would make the bill even stronger.

*Apply the fee to electricity.* HB0076 does not directly assess a fee on electricity. As a result, electricity generators in the State will pay the fee based on the amount and type of fossil fuel they combust, while electricity imported into the State (approximately 45% of consumption), will be exempt from the fee. This could drive Maryland generators to other PJM states, costing Maryland jobs with no corresponding reduction in emissions (Maryland counts emissions from imported electricity in its inventory). We also note that assessing the fee directly on electricity would substantially increase revenue that can be invested in clean energy, transportation, and schools.

*Add a carveout for Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) allowances.* The 2020 CCEA contained a carve-out for money paid for RGGI allowances. We assume the omission of this provision in 2021 was an oversight, since a similar carve-out for Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) allowances has been retained. If the RGGI carve-out is not reinstated, in-state generators will be subject to double pricing, further undercutting their competitiveness in PJM markets.

*Modify revenue distribution.* Whatever revenue distribution is ultimately decided by the General Assembly, it is essential that low- and middle-income households be adequately protected from economic impacts of the fee. As currently written, SB0076 distributes revenue to the Benefit and Infrastructure

funds only after \$350 million has been distributed to the Kirwan Fund. It may be several years before the fee raises enough revenue to fully fund the Benefit Fund and several more before sufficient money is provided to the Infrastructure Fund. We recommend a reordering of distribution so that all funds receive a fair proportion of revenue. We recommend the first 50% of revenue go to the Benefit Fund (divided 40% to households / 10% to employers), which was the intent of the bill in previous years. 75% of the remaining revenue should go to education, up to a maximum of \$350 million, and the rest to the infrastructure Fund.

*Eliminate 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 appears to 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 2022) 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.

**sb0076\_ccea\_witness.pdf**

Uploaded by: Marcin, Daniel

Position: FWA



SB 0076: Climate Crisis and Education Act

Budget and Taxation committee testimony

Favorable with amendments

Hello,

As an economist, it gives me great joy to see a carbon price in the legislature again this year. I am grateful to the senator and delegate who have been behind this for years, and also grateful to those that put Maryland into the RGGI for a carbon price in electricity generation and the TCI for a carbon price in transportation. Since carbon pollution is a social bad, not a social good, we could certainly raise the price on carbon much higher and still improve the wellbeing of all of our citizens.

A carbon price works in a variety of ways. Some mistakenly believe that carbon pricing only works if the revenue is spent on carbon reduction. This is totally false. Changing the relative prices of polluting vs. nonpolluting or lesser-polluting activities can change the amount of pollution very easily. For example, if using dirty electricity from an electric utility becomes more expensive, more customers may seek to secure solar power for their home or business, in addition to using electricity more efficiently. If gas becomes more expensive, people will drive fewer miles, combine errands into a single trip, carpool, commute at off-peak hours, or take transit or a bicycle. All of these things improve society, reduce pollution, and rely only on the change in relative prices. It is not necessary to spend any of the revenue to attain these reductions.

One point that is raised often about carbon prices is that they are regressive taxes. A regressive tax is one where the poor pay a higher percent of their income toward the tax than the rich do. A regressive tax does not mean that the poor spend more dollars on the tax than the rich. That is almost never the case, and it is certainly not the case for carbon. The rich have a much higher carbon footprint than the poor, so therefore, any carbon price that is passed onto consumers will have the rich paying more dollars in carbon price than the poor. If there is a per-capita rebate back to consumers, the poor can easily be made better off than they were before the tax. This is because the rich will pay much more than the poor for total carbon, but everybody receives the same slice back of the total in a check. This average will work out to more than the poor spent on carbon.

We economists like to say that a carbon price is the most efficient way to reduce carbon pollution. It may be that you don't like the distributional effect of a carbon price. That's certainly your right to believe. But you should grapple with the meaning of "most efficient"; if you don't use the most efficient policy, then whatever policy you do choose will cost society more. There is no way to address climate change without upsetting anybody. Why not pick the least costly way, and use the money to compensate people who you feel have been treated unfairly?

These points hint at my suggested amendment. As I stated, a carbon price works by making consumers think about their carbon footprint because it hits them in their wallet. This bill as written contains a "no pass-through" provision. This provision must be deleted for two reasons. One, the price will not force behavior change if it cannot be passed onto consumers. Two, prohibiting pass-through is economically impossible and completely unenforceable, and good state legislators should not lie to the

citizens of their state by passing language that they know cannot work. Ask yourself, if “no pass-through” will actually be effective, then why is there a need for other provisions in the bill to protect citizens and businesses who might be harmed? However, if it gives you the courage to vote in the affirmative, then go ahead and leave “no pass-through” in, knowing that it won’t work and that consumers will still face the higher prices. But I recommend you do the honest thing and strike it, and follow that up with passing this bill through both houses of the legislature.

Thank you for your time.

Daniel Marcin, PhD

# **SB76 - Climate Crisis & Education Act - B&T - Kram**

Uploaded by: Tulkin, Josh

Position: FWA



7338 Baltimore Ave  
Suite 102  
College Park, MD 20740

**Committee: Budget and Taxation**  
**Testimony on: SB76 – “Climate Crisis and Education Act”**  
**Position: Support with Amendments**  
**Hearing Date: February 2, 2021**

The Maryland Sierra Club appreciates the ongoing work of the bill sponsors to address the existential climate crisis by enacting a comprehensive program which includes the pricing of carbon pollution. Our testimony on SB76 follows along the lines of our testimony on similar bills in recent sessions. In sum, pricing carbon pollution, when done properly, has been and can be an effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, invest in clean energy, and reduce the impacts of climate disruption on Maryland communities and families, particularly for those that have been overburdened and underserved by our current system. We believe that this legislation has significant, positive features while, at the same time, we believe that improvements are needed as well.

The Sierra Club is a strong supporter of policies that use market-based mechanisms to limit, price, and reduce climate-disrupting pollution. In particular, in Maryland, we draw upon the experiences in implementing the popular, successful, and effective Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). Climate-disrupting pollution from power plants has dropped in the region, in part thanks to RGGI’s pollution limits and the investment of RGGI revenue in energy efficiency and clean energy. Communities are breathing easier, families and businesses are saving money, and the economy has benefited.

We have identified several guiding principles regarding the adoption of market-based climate programs, two of which especially stand out:

- Climate policies must be carefully designed to ensure they will help achieve the greenhouse gas reductions science says are necessary to effectively minimize the impacts of climate disruption.
- Policies should ensure that those who are most overburdened by pollution and underserved by our current energy and economic systems are better off as a result of actions taken to stabilize the climate. This includes: communities that are most at risk from rising seas, higher temperatures, and/or more extreme weather events as a result of climate disruption.; communities that have large sources of pollution, or poor air and water quality, and whose economic prosperity may currently be disproportionately dependent on facilities that produce greenhouse gases; and workers whose livelihoods and families have been dependent on jobs and money from dirty energy companies.

In 2018, the Maryland Department of the Environment conducted a robust analysis of a Maryland-based, economy-wide price on carbon with 50 percent of the generated revenue dedicated to investment in additional pollution-reduction and economic equity programs. The analysis evaluated greenhouse gas reduction potential as it relates to meeting our Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act (GGRA) goals as well as the economic impact of such a policy. The study concluded that:

- The policy scenario will result in Maryland exceeding our GGRA goals by 2030.<sup>i</sup>
- The policy scenario will result in economic growth for the state year-by-year.<sup>ii</sup>

Founded in 1892, the Sierra Club is America’s oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization. The Maryland Chapter has over 75,000 members and supporters, and the Sierra Club nationwide has over 800,000 members and nearly four million supporters.

This legislation, appropriately, revises Maryland's greenhouse gas reduction targets to a 60 percent reduction by 2030, and achieving net-zero emissions by 2045. In order to accomplish this, and ensure that overburdened and underserved constituencies can and do benefit, substantial investments will be needed. These include, but are not limited to: increasing energy efficiency and deploying electric heat pumps to lower costs and pollution from heating and cooling our buildings; increasing the amount of clean, renewable energy generated in, and consumed in, Maryland; increasing access to and use of affordable, rapid, frequent, and clean transportation options like electric vehicles, public rail transit, and electric buses; alleviating electricity ratepayer impacts on low-income residents; improving infrastructure in impacted communities; and providing job training opportunities in clean energy generation for individuals working in the fossil-fuel industry.

As a consequence, it is the Sierra Club's position that funds raised by a greenhouse gas emissions fee should be prioritized for programs that promote climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. This bill takes a different approach and, in that respect, we believe that the bill should be amended.

In conclusion, we agree that carbon cost collection is a viable, proven path for addressing and limiting climate change, and hope that our testimony on this legislation will be productive in continuing the conversation regarding the distribution of funds from carbon cost collection.

David Smedick  
Senior Campaign Representative  
David.Smedick@SierraClub.org

Josh Tulkin  
Chapter Director  
Josh.Tulkin@MDSierra.org

---

<sup>i</sup> [https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Air/ClimateChange/MCCC/MWG/E3\\_PathwaysPolicyScenario3.pdf](https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Air/ClimateChange/MCCC/MWG/E3_PathwaysPolicyScenario3.pdf).

<sup>ii</sup> [https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Air/ClimateChange/MCCC/MWG/RESI\\_EconomicImpactsPolicyScenario3.pdf](https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Air/ClimateChange/MCCC/MWG/RESI_EconomicImpactsPolicyScenario3.pdf).

**SB0076 NAIOP Testimony Letter B&T 1-29-21.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ballentine, Tom

Position: UNF



January 29, 2021

The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Oppose - SB 76 – Climate Crisis and Education Act**

Dear Senator Guzzone and Committee Members:

The NAIOP Maryland Chapters represent 700 companies involved in development and ownership of commercial, mixed-use, and light industrial real estate, including some of the largest property owners in the state. NAIOP's membership is comprised of a mix of local firms and publicly traded real estate investment trusts that are invested in the future of Maryland but also have experience in national and international markets.

Success in climate mitigation fits the ambition and values of commercial real estate. For decades, NAIOP's member companies have been dedicated to energy efficiency, conservation, and high-performance construction. That commitment is one of the primary reasons that for 20-years Maryland has been among the top ten states in the country for LEED certified buildings.

SB 76 sets new greenhouse gas reduction goals for the state and establishes a carbon tax and invest scheme for transportation and non-transportation fossil fuels. The structure of the proposal contains several provisions that raise concerns that it would be counter-productive and ultimately would not be an effective method to meet long-term climate mitigation goals.

Greenhouse gas reductions from carbon tax schemes depend on spending the proceeds on practices that reduce emissions and on the adoption of climate friendly behavioral changes by households and businesses who receive the pricing signal and make changes to avoid paying the tax.

The structure of SB 76 frustrates both key elements. First it directs the tax proceeds to Kirwan related education spending which will not reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Second, the structure returns tax proceeds to taxpayers diluting the price signal and the motivation to adopt climate friendly changes. The bill's carbon tax of \$20 to \$60 dollars per ton of carbon emitted on vital heating, cooking, hot water and transportation fuels would be devastating to the finances businesses that generally get no rebate. The tax would be applied to at a time when the market for zero carbon alternatives is not well developed and barriers still exist that prevent households and businesses from avoiding the additional tax.

**For these reasons NAIOP respectfully recommends your unfavorable report on SB 76.**

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T.M. Ballentine".

Tom Ballentine, Vice President for Policy  
NAIOP Maryland Chapters -*The Association for Commercial Real Estate*

cc: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee Members  
Nick Manis – Manis, Canning Assoc.

**SB 76 Columbia Gas Testimony MD 2021 - OPPOSE.pdf**

Uploaded by: Collins, Carville

Position: UNF



**OPPOSE Senate Bill 76**  
**Senate Bill 76 – Climate Crisis and Education Act**  
**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**

Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc. opposes Senate Bill 76. Senate Bill 76 is not an efficient policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Maryland. The proposed tax would significantly increase the cost of heating, cooking, and clothes drying for the average natural gas customer without providing a clear, defined, and cost-effective greenhouse gas reduction benefit. The proposal would increase the average residential customer bill by an estimated 9% in 2022 and 28% by 2030. Furthermore, the costs for any education or infrastructure fund should be shared by all Marylanders and not paid for disproportionately by natural gas customers. These customer costs are all based on the presumption of recovery through distribution rates, as laid out in the bill. This recovery is far from assured as there is no guarantee that the PSC would approve what essentially is a tax on supply as appropriate distribution costs. It is therefore worth noting that the millions of dollars of owed taxes would likely exceed Columbia's net income in short order.

Natural gas is helping Maryland achieve the goals of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions Act (GGRA). Columbia Gas of Maryland, specifically, has reduced emissions from its main and service lines by more than 50% since 2005 through the replacement of priority pipe and the Strategic Infrastructure Development and Enhancement (STRIDE) program. Columbia Gas of Maryland has invested approximately \$86 million in STRIDE projects since 2014 to provide safe and reliable service and environmental benefits. Many jobs have also been added through the STRIDE program, and the company projects to invest approximately \$69 million more by 2023.

Columbia Gas of Maryland was a founding member of the Environmental Protection Agency's Methane Challenge, a voluntary program to recognize companies that make specific and transparent commitments to reduce methane emissions. Columbia also continues to discuss regulatory options with the Department of the Environment to reduce emissions from the natural gas supply chain, and is committed to offering energy efficiency programs to lower energy bills for customers and avoid future emissions.

Approximately 179 million Americans and more than four out of every ten Maryland households<sup>1</sup> rely on natural gas as an affordable, reliable, safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible energy source. Nationally, residential natural gas accounts for only 4% of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions,<sup>2</sup> and American Gas Association utilities including Columbia are committed to reducing emissions through smart innovation, new and modernized infrastructure, and advanced technologies that maintain reliable, resilient, and affordable energy service choices for consumers.<sup>3</sup>

For the reasons set forth above, Columbia Gas opposes Senate Bill 76 and requests an unfavorable report.

February 2, 2021

Contact:  
Carville Collins  
(410) 580-4125  
[carville.collins@dlapiper.com](mailto:carville.collins@dlapiper.com)

Contact:  
Pete Trufahnestock  
(717) 903-8674  
[ptrufahnestock@nisource.com](mailto:ptrufahnestock@nisource.com)

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.eia.gov/state/analysis.php?sid=MD#47>

<sup>2</sup> <http://playbook.aga.org/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.aga.org/globalassets/aga\\_climate-change-document\\_final.pdf](https://www.aga.org/globalassets/aga_climate-change-document_final.pdf)

# **Opposition of SB76 - Climate Crisis and Education**

Uploaded by: Ferguson, Colby

Position: UNF



# Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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

February 2, 2021

To: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Opposition of SB76 - Climate Crisis and Education Act**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony opposing SB76. This bill establishes a Climate Crisis Initiative in the Department of the Environment to establish a greenhouse gas reduction target of 60% from 2006 levels by 2030 and net-zero by 2045; establishes a Climate Crisis Council to develop a plan to reach the reduction targets and submit it to the General Assembly by December 31, 2022; requires a greenhouse gas pollution fee on all fossil fuels brought into the State for combustion in the State with \$340 million of those fees to be used to pay for the Kirwan education recommendations.

This bill goes over and above what the Maryland Commission on Climate Change is recommending. The negative economic impacts to Maryland citizens will be substantial. To make matters worse, the fees that would be collect through the proposed fuel tax would not be used to cover the cost of transitioning to zero emission vehicles, but instead to pay for new Pre-K through 12 education program that has nothing to do with Climate Change.

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

**MARYLAND FARM BUREAU RESPECTFULLY OPPOSES SB 76**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colby Ferguson". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Colby Ferguson  
Director of Government Relations

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

**MBIA Testimony SB 76.pdf**

Uploaded by: Graf, Lori

Position: UNF

February 2, 2021

The Honorable Guy Guzzone  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building,  
3 West Wing 11 Bladen St.,  
Annapolis, MD, 21401

**RE: SB 76 Climate Crisis and Education Act**

Dear Chairman Guzzone:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 1,100 member firms statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding SB 76 Climate Crisis and Education Act. MBIA Opposes the Act in its current version.

This bill would establish the a Climate Crisis Initiative in the Department of the Environment, change greenhouse gas emissions goals and establish a Climate Crisis Council to develop a plan to reach the reduction targets and submit it to the General Assembly by December 31, 2022.

MBIA Respectfully opposes this measure due to the potential consequences of rash changes to the Maryland emissions policies and goals. This measure would establish an unrealistic timeline for achieving net zero emissions while we are still struggling to meet the previous goals of establishing a 60% reduction in 2006 emissions. Additionally, the infrastructure in the state is not yet ready to provide sufficient low-cost emissions free energy to meet the needs of the residents of the State of Maryland. The proposed fee for the generation of energy using fossil fuels will drive up energy costs for consumers during a period in which we will be recovering from the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

MBIA urges that rash action not be taken and that we put every effort into reaching the current goals of the state before extending these goals to unrealistic heights.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure an unfavorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or [lgraf@marylandbuilders.org](mailto:lgraf@marylandbuilders.org).

cc: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

**SB 76\_Climate\_CrisisandEducation\_Act\_UNFAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Griffin, Andrew

Position: UNF



**MARYLAND**  
Chamber of Commerce

**LEGISLATIVE POSITION:**

**UNFAVORABLE**

**Senate Bill 76**

**Climate Crisis and Education Act**

**Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee**

**Tuesday, February 2, 2021**

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 5,000 members and federated partners, and we work to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic recovery and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

The membership of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce expresses great concern over the new and ambitious greenhouse gas reduction goals set forth in SB 76, not because it is not a worth endeavor, but such changes will create an immense cost burden on Maryland employers and the generally accepted movement of goods and people. Additionally, among the many provisions contained in SB 76, there are direct increases to the cost of energy. It is also our understanding that SB 76 would create an immense administrative burden on the Maryland Department of the Environment.

For further consideration, to say that COVID-19 has had a tremendous, detrimental impact on Maryland's economy would be an understatement, and there is plenty of reason to remain cautious and concerned about its lasting implications. Maryland businesses continue to struggle, and the Comptroller's Office has estimated that approximately 30,000 businesses have either closed or will close permanently due to the pandemic. A period of major economic downturn and future uncertainty is not the time to implement new policies that stand to negatively impact businesses that are already struggling to overcome the impact of COVID-19.

For these reasons, the Chamber respectfully requests an **unfavorable report** on Senate Bill 76.

MDCHAMBER.ORG

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

**SB76 wmda.pdf**

Uploaded by: McCauley, Kirk

Position: UNF





WMDA/CAR Service Station  
and Automotive Repair Association

Chairman: Guy Guzzone  
Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

RE: SB76 Climate Crisis and Education Act

Position: Oppose

Maryland gas tax is already out of line with surrounding state and this bill expand that separation. No matter where the fee is charged it will end up at the pump. Maryland retailers will have no choice but to pass the increase to their customers.

COVID 19 has stressed businesses, workers, and households to their limit, none deserve the added burden of this bill at this time.

To residents that live week to week, paycheck to paycheck and retirees on a set budget, this bill will be devastating. End of the year reimbursement from the State fund won't do any good when you must decide between gas for your car & work, heat for your house or food on the table. No matter what Quintile you are in.

Please give SB76 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](mailto:kmccauley@wmda.net)

**SB76\_MDE\_LOI.pdf**

Uploaded by: abbott, tyler

Position: INFO



# Maryland

## Department of the Environment

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

Ben Grumbles, Secretary  
Horacio Tablada, Deputy Secretary

February 2, 2021

The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair  
Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

### **Re: Senate Bill 76- Climate Crisis and Education Act**

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or the Department) has reviewed *Senate Bill 76- Climate Crisis and Education Act* and would like to provide some information on the bill.

The purpose of SB 76 is to provide for the establishment of a Climate Crisis Initiative (the “Initiative”) in the Department for the purpose of achieving GHG reduction targets for certain years as well as the establishment of a Climate Crisis Council (the “Council”) to develop plans that supports the Initiative. This bill has a very significant fiscal and operational impact on the Department. Amongst other provisions, the Department would have the following new responsibilities under the bill: administer the schedule of greenhouse gas (GHG) fees on all fossil fuels brought into the State for combustion and electricity; solely administer the Household and Employee Benefit Fund; administer the Climate Crisis Infrastructure Fund in consultation with the Council; and administer the Kirwan Fund in consultation with the Department of Education.

As part of managing the GHG fees and three funds noted above, MDE would be required to: (1) ensure that if an exemption is taken for the sequestration of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions, those emissions are permanently sequestered; (2) determine the fuel used to generate electricity at each generating plant in the state and the fuel used to generate electricity that is imported into the state based on information from PJM interconnection and other sources; (3) adopt regulations for the calculation, assessment, and collection of the charges; (4) report to the General Assembly; (5) identify other GHGs as a “greenhouse gas-emitting priority” for purposes of assessing a charge; (6) study and report on the feasibility of imposing and collecting additional GHG emission charges on emissions, such as fugitive emissions; (7) in connection with disbursements from the Employer Benefit Fund and giving special attention to manufacturing, agriculture, small nonprofit organizations, and governmental units which would then require the Department to (i) consult with other State agencies, such as Commerce, Labor, Licensing, and Regulation and Housing and Community Development to identify economic sectors or subsectors at risk of serious negative impacts because of the charge, (ii) calculate, as mitigation, the total proceeds collected from the above-mentioned sectors and may apportion part or all of the proceeds to the affected sector, and (iii) demonstrate, for manufacturers, agriculture and for-profit employers, that negative impacts from the charge are likely to occur due to competition from employers outside the State and for nonprofit and governmental that these entities would face undue burdens without the mitigation.

Chairman Guy Guzzone

Page 2

All of these provisions would have a significant fiscal and operational impact on the Department. Taking into account the requirement for the Department to delegate the collection of charges to the Comptroller, the Department estimates that this bill would require the development of a new program in the Department with roughly seventy employees and three new accounting systems/databases. The development of this program and systems would occur prior to seeing any influx of revenue generated from the required charges in the bill. Given that there are many unknowns about the full scope of the work to manage the three new and very complex funding programs, and the fact that managing education initiatives (the Kirwan Fund) is outside the scope of the Department's expertise, there is always the potential for needing more staff than envisioned at this time.

Additionally, under this bill, the statewide GHG reduction goals would be changed to reduce statewide GHG emissions by 60% from 2006 levels by 2030, and net-zero GHG emissions by 2045. After 2045, statewide GHG emissions shall be net negative. The bill creates the Climate Crisis Council (the Council), which is primarily responsible for writing the plan to meet the new GHG reduction goals. However, the bill does not note who would be staffing the Council. If MDE staffs the Council and is primarily responsible for helping the Council write the new plan, there would be an additional fiscal and operational impact on the Department. The revised goals would require that MDE repeat the comprehensive emissions and economic impact analysis included in the current GGRA plan process using extended contracts with emissions and economic impact modelers. Because of the significant number of emissions reduction measures that Maryland has implemented, this would require a large number of additional scenarios and substantial contract costs. The Department would also be responsible for studying and reporting the feasibility of imposing and collecting additional GHG emission fees on fugitive emissions and intentional release of methane from the natural gas infrastructure. This would require additional contractual support to conduct the study as well.

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor *Senate Bill 76- Climate Crisis and Education Act* 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 by e-mail at [tyler.abbott@maryland.gov](mailto:tyler.abbott@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tyler Abbott", written over a horizontal line.

Tyler Abbott

cc: George "Tad" Aburn, Director, Air and Radiation Administration

**SB0076 (HB0033) - LOI - LOI.pdf**

Uploaded by: Fahrig, Landon

Position: INFO



**TO:** Members, Senate Finance Committee  
**FROM:** Mary Beth Tung – Director, MEA  
**SUBJECT:** SB0076 (HB0033) – Climate Crisis and Education Act  
**DATE:** February 2, 2021

---

**MEA POSITION: Letter of Information**

While the Maryland Energy Administration (“MEA”) applauds the laudable goals of this bill, it presents several possible challenges. MEA offers the following information to highlight those challenges.

The bill proposes a new tax of at least \$350,000,000 per year in a period of obvious economic strife. Where MEA has adapted its programs in the face of Covid to help maximize economic development opportunities and for the promotion of Maryland Jobs, this new tax may serve to exacerbate the economic challenges associated with the pandemic.

Specifically, the proposed tax will increase the costs of home heating. This will compound an existing challenge in areas of the State that have lower average incomes, such as rural areas, where residents *already* pay a premium for heating fuels due to the lack of affordable options, thus perpetuating a cycle of economic struggle.

Taxing any person that generates more than 25,000 kilowatt-hours of on-site generated electricity will be punitive for many adopters of combined heat and power (CHP) units within the State. CHP units *reduce* greenhouse gas emissions, provide grid benefits, reduce congestion, and increase resiliency. The tax proposed by this bill will greatly reduce or eliminate the incentive for *private investment* in these important energy generation resources.

Senate Bill 76 proposes the creation of a Climate Crisis Council (“Council”). Unlike most councils that are to have any influence on State policy, the power of appointment to the council rests solely with General Assembly majority leadership. The council also excludes any required departmental involvement. MEA, the Department of the Environment, Department of Agriculture, Department of Planning, and the Department of Natural Resources work diligently, and in an interconnected fashion, to mitigate and address the impacts of climate change. However, none would necessarily be represented on the proposed Council, even though it would purportedly serve those same goals.

The bill also creates a Climate Crises Infrastructure Fund (“Fund”). The purpose of the fund is to promote investments in clean energy resources, energy efficiency, transportation sector programs, and resiliency measures including those targeting low-to-moderate income residents. MEA notes that the allowable uses of the Strategic Energy Investment Fund (“SEIF”) and MEA programs both also promote investments in clean energy resources, energy efficiency, transportation sector programs, and resiliency measures including those targeting low-to-moderate income residents. It appears that the Fund would create duplicative programs within MEA and the Department of the Environment, leading to unavoidable inefficiencies.

# **2021 SB 76 Climate Crisis & Ed Act DGS LOI B&T 2-2**

Uploaded by: Robertson, Ellen

Position: INFO



**BILL:** Senate Bill 76 – Climate Crisis and Education Act

**COMMITTEE:** Senate Budget and Taxation

**DATE:** February 2, 2021

**POSITION:** Letter of Information

Upon review of Senate Bill 76 – Climate Crisis and Education Act, the Department of General Services (DGS) provides these comments for your consideration.

- Senate Bill 76 would have significant fiscal impact to State-wide utility costs. DGS estimates that Senate Bill 76 would increase State-wide energy costs, including the University System of Maryland, by **\$145,850,551**. This estimate is a seven percent (7%) increase over current projections. The calculations and assumptions used to arrive at this estimate are:
  - Multiplication of the MMBTUs of fossil fuels used annually within State-owned facilities by EIA CO-2e conversion factors.
  - Reducing by two percent the amount of fossil fuels consumed each year to reflect the electrification of State buildings.
  - Multiplying the annual MWHs of electricity generated within the state by the EPA eGRID factors for CO-2e.
  - Assuming a flat line consumption of electricity for the next ten years due to increased investments in efficiency offset by increased use of electric vehicles.
  - Reducing the annual amount of electricity generated by fossil fuels by the increase in renewables required in the Renewable Portfolio Standard.
- Senate Bill 76 would also have a significant fiscal impact on DGS's utility costs. Approximately six percent (6%) of State government energy use is attributable to DGS. Therefore, DGS utility costs are estimated to increase by **\$8,751,033.04** over ten years. Additional utility costs have not been included in DGS's operating budget.
- Senate Bill 76 will impact the finances of local governments and small businesses through increased utility expenses.
- The estimated fiscal impact of this bill can be partially offset by accelerating the move to electrification of State facilities while concurrently investing in energy efficiency. Further utility cost offsets could occur with continued high rates of teleworking by State employees.

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

