

February 16, 2021

BILL: HB0033
TITLE: Climate Crisis and Education Act
POSITION: SUPPORT
HEARING DATE: 2/18/2021
COMMITTEE: Economic Matters
SPONSOR: Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to you from the Eastern Shore, which is already beginning to experience chronic flooding from climate change and the associated negative economic impacts.

Among the many positive social benefits of the Climate Crisis and Education Act (CCEA) is the potential to provide increased funding for “resiliency infrastructure.” ***I hope that the definition of “resiliency infrastructure” will be broad enough to encompass innovative solutions to protect our shoreline on the Chesapeake Bay (both eastern and western shore).*** The economic future of these Maryland towns and rural communities will depend on strengthening the resiliency of the shoreline against “sunny day” flooding from tides¹ as well as from catastrophic weather events. A huge investment is needed.

Furthermore, the funds generated by the CCEA will prepare Maryland for the “energy transition” that is already underway in the rest of the world, from fossil fuels to low-carbon energy sources such as renewable energy. The energy transition is inevitable, but it does not have to be economically painful for Maryland residents. The CCEA can incentivize clean energy jobs and gradually reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.

For these reasons and more, I urge a FAVORABLE REPORT on HB0033.

Respectfully submitted,

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¹ Baltimore Sun, July 10, 2019 <https://www.baltimoresun.com/weather/bs-md-nuisance-flooding-record-20190710-c6kx6hnhijgubkhkq5qnl5vuy-story.html>