

**Oral Testimony in Support of
Climate Crisis and Education Act (HB 0033)
House Economic Matters Committee February 18, 2021**

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On behalf of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund, I strongly urge a favorable report on HB 0033, 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.

The CCEA incentivizes the reduction of fossil fuel CO2 emissions, and its passage would put Maryland on a commonsense, practical pathway toward a sustainable, vibrant economy. It will generate billions of dollars for investment in clean energy infrastructure and our children's education, all while providing protective benefits to Maryland's trade-exposed small businesses and its most vulnerable populations: low-and moderate-income households.

The data shows us that if we stay the course and continue our overreliance on fossil fuels, children born today will live to see places like Ocean City disappear due to sea level rise. They will live to see "once in a lifetime" hurricanes, winter storms, wildfires, droughts, food shortages, and other severe conditions happen multiple times a year.

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 an equitable transition 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, protect everyday Marylanders, and help solve the climate crisis.

We urge a favorable report.

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