

**February 15, 2021**

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

I write you today to express my strong support for the 2021 Climate Crisis and Education Act. As a member of the millennial generation, I have long been concerned about how climate change will affect my life and the lives of my loved ones in the future. Many scientists believe that the world must overhaul its energy system and dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 or else face dramatic consequences due to the changing climate. I do not wish to spend the second half of my life contending with the repercussions of decisions we made – or failed to make – right now to move away from our dependence on fossil fuels.

Already, in the past few years, I have begun to see the consequences of global warming on the world and right here in Maryland, where I was born and raised. It seems like it snows much less than it did when I was growing up, and each winter there are more and more days with temperatures in the 50's, 60's, or even 70's. There are also now more days in the summer so hot and humid that it can be dangerous to spend too much time outside during the day. Just the little bit of warming that has occurred already is changing my life in Maryland, a place relatively insulated from the worst effects of climate change.

Unfortunately, climate change does not only affect me and the state I call home. It is a truly global issue, and it is harming people everywhere. California is ravaged by wildfires every year, and more powerful hurricanes are pummeling states like Florida and Louisiana. I have family in friends in all those places, and I worry about both their safety and the potential financial repercussions of these events. How long will it be before a friend loses his home to a wildfire or storm fueled by climate change? It is even harder to contemplate the very real possibility that people I love could be seriously injured or killed by weather phenomena made worse by climate change.

I have adopted many climate-friendly habits in my own life to reduce my carbon footprint, from eating less meat to cutting down on driving and flying, even though it means missing out on time spent with my parents in Florida or my brother in Seattle, Washington. In nearly every decision I make, I consider the impact it will have on the climate. Yet I also know that, as an individual, my own day-to-day decisions do little to alter the disastrous course we are on. I am dependent on my political representatives on the local, state, and national level to take truly meaningful action to stave off the worst effects of climate change.

For that reason, I implore you to support the Climate Crisis and Education Act. I see this bill as a crucial first step towards transitioning our nation away from an economy and energy system dependent on fossil fuels. By placing a price on carbon, investing in energy infrastructure, and easing the burdens of those policies on low- and middle-income individuals and workers in affected industries, this bill includes the sorts of changes that must be made to stave off the worst effects of climate change. Quite simply, the changes proposed in this bill need to happen at some point, and the sooner they are adopted, the more money and lives will be saved.

Moreover, the bill is important not only for the changes it will trigger but for the example it provides to others. By passing the Climate Crisis and Education Act, Maryland will demonstrate to the other 49 states, and to countries around the world, that reducing greenhouse gas emissions can be done in an effective and equitable manner. With our federal government seemingly deadlocked on whether to take meaningful action on the existential problem of climate change, it is vital that more states enact policies like those included in the Climate Crisis and Education Act. This is an opportunity to lead by example and to place our state at the forefront of a movement that is fighting to keep our world from descending into climate chaos.

When you vote on this bill, please think not just about how it will benefit Marylanders like you and me now, but also about how it will push policy makers around the country and the world to tackle the problem of climate change. Even more importantly, consider all the lives that will be improved or saved by taking meaningful action on climate as soon as possible. For the good of our state, our nation, and the planet, I urge you to support the Climate Crisis and Education Act.

Respectfully submitted,

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Cc: Members of the Budget and Finance Committee