

February 16, 2021

COMMITTEE: House Economic Matters  
BILL: HB Climate Crisis and Education Act  
POSITION: SUPPORT  
SPONSOR: Del. David Fraser-Hidalgo

As a freshman in High School, I feel strongly about climate change and that HB 33 will address greenhouse gas reductions and support education in Maryland both which will help to combat climate change. Climate change is an issue that occurs when greenhouse gasses, such as the carbon dioxide that comes from a gas-powered vehicle, is trapped in the atmosphere. That collection of greenhouse gas prevents Earth's heat from being released back into space, causing the Earth to continually get warmer. The *Climate Crisis and Education Act* fights against climate change by putting a price on carbon and asking the producer to pay this fee at the first point of sale.

This will incentivize polluters to move towards clean energy practices. The money raised from pricing carbon is directly returned to education, infrastructure, and low-income communities that are affected the most by global climate change. I fervently believe that education is the solution to all problems, whether it be from poverty to systemic racism. I feel supported by this legislation as it recognizes the importance of education for future generations, which is why I believe the *Climate Crisis and Education Act* should be passed.

According to a Baltimore Sun article titled, *Maryland's Dorchester County is washing away, leaving its residents with hard choices* by Scott Dance, "the Chesapeake Bay will rise as much as 2.1 feet by 2050 — enough to put most of the southern half of Dorchester underwater". It is key to understand that Marylanders are directly affected by Climate Change every day. Maryland State Senator Adelaide C. Eckardt and House Delegates Christopher T. Adams, Johnny Mautz, and Sheree Sample-Hughes of Dorchester County would not have much of a district left for them to represent without legislation that combats climate change such as the *Climate Crisis and Education Act*. I ask our legislators to consider a Chesapeake Bay with clear waters and flourishing marine life. With the *Climate Crisis and Education Act*, that is a future that we can realize.

I urge all Maryland State Legislators to pass the act that not only combats climate change but also supports some of the hardest working individuals in the world - school teachers. It protects Maryland's infrastructure from rising sea levels caused by climate change and it goes to disenfranchised communities who suffer the most from this issue. The time is now to protect our people. The time is now to protect my fellow students. *The time is now to protect our Earth.*

For these reasons and more I urge HB 33 be FAVORABLY REPORTED.

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