



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

SUPPORT

HB 33

Climate Crisis and Education Act
Environment and Transportation Committee

Economic Matters Committee

2/18/2021

Good afternoon Chair Davis, Vice Chair Dumais, and members of the Economic Matters Committee, and, Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee. My name is Rev. Linda Boyd, and I am here on behalf of GreenGrace, the parishioner-led environmental advisory mission of the Maryland Episcopal Diocese. The Diocese consists of 108 parishes and over 45,000 parishioners, stretching from Western Maryland to Calvert County. The Maryland Episcopal Diocese supports HB033.

This bill sets a goal of greenhouse gas reduction to net zero across the state by year 2045 and establishes a Benefit Fund to resolve any inequities arising from enactment. It requires planting and maintaining native trees by 2030, including underserved urban areas. Trees capture and reduce carbon in the atmosphere, filter polluted runoff, serving as wildlife habitats, and alleviating urban heat islands. This Bill establishes various pollution fees on fossil fuels and on certain new high-emission vehicle sales and registrations. Revenues from the fees are divided into the Kirwan Commission Fund; the Household and Employer Benefit Fund; and the Climate Crisis Infrastructure Fund.

We support the establishment of a Climate Crisis Infrastructure Fund which is intended to invest in initiatives that improve the health and welfare of the citizens of the State related to clean energy and resiliency. Thirty percent of the money must be used to benefit low- and moderate-income residents, with priority given to historically pollution-burdened and underserved communities.

Finally, the fee proposed on high-emission vehicles sold or registered in Maryland from 2022 will help the state achieve negative CO₂ emissions by 2046. These fees will support electric vehicle purchase rebates, net zero buses and other state transit vehicles and the expansion of electric vehicle infrastructure.

We respectfully request a favorable vote for HB033.