

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,

We are in a climate emergency. We must act now. Please support the Climate Crisis and Education Act.

“Don’t go in the water” is not something you want to say to your kids. But over the past few years here on the Sassafras River, I’ve had to because of cyanobacteria. These harmful algal blooms produce toxins that can kill people and animals.

[Climate change is increasing the severity of harmful algal blooms on the Chesapeake Bay](#). Last summer, for example, a large toxic bloom was active on the Sassafras River for 2 weeks.

Harmful algal blooms are just one effect of climate change we’re experiencing on the Eastern Shore.

Add to the list:

- Disruption of the Bay ecosystem from rising water temperature and salinity;
- Failure of crops from extreme rainfall, heat, and drought;
- Destruction of shorelines and wetland habitats from seawater rise; and
- Negative effects on Maryland residents and businesses from all of the above.

Beyond our state, we’re witnessing deadly floods, fires, and heatwaves worldwide. And the extinction of one-third of the planet’s species by 2050...Is this the world we want to pass on to our children?

The Climate Crisis and Education Act is a smart step we can take to address this existential crisis. It incrementally increases the price of fossil fuels, a primary contributor of the CO2 emissions that are driving climate change. The funds collected will support green infrastructure for a just transition and provide desperately needed funds for education in our state. This plan is doable.

For these reasons and more, I, Andrea Power, a member of Chestertown Citizens’ Climate Lobby Chapter, urge a FAVORABLE REPORT on HB0033.

Respectfully,

Andrea Power, Member, Citizens’ Climate Lobby Chestertown Chapter, 301-575-6826

Cc: Members of the Economic Matters Committee