

**Submission date 3/8/2022**

**HEARING DATE: 3/10/2022**

**BILL and TITLE:** HB0171 – Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT  
**COMMITTEE:** Economic Matters & Environment and Transportation  
**SPONSOR:** Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Judith Allen-Leventhal, and I live in Maryland Legislative District 26. I support HB0171, the Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice.

Increasingly, the negative effects of pollution on children are clear. Exposure to pollutants in schools has significant, negative impacts on test scores, learning outcomes, as well as negative behavioral impacts resulting in things such as suspensions, and/or absence from school. The CCEJ 's Climate Crisis Benefit Fund and the Infrastructure Fund will directly give back to those communities and schools that have been most harmed.

Results of research studying the effects of children's learning ability makes clear that lowering air pollution levels by 20% could improve the development of a child's working memory by 6.1%, the equivalent of four weeks extra learning time per year. Air pollution from burning fossil fuels is causing or exacerbating serious illnesses such as heart disease, asthma, lung disease, and cancer. The particulates in air pollution can also threaten pregnant women and the health of their babies.

The CCEJ provides funds both for families most directly impacted as well as for local governments to create and implement climate action plans to reduce GHG emissions. This bill offers a practical and economically viable solution to the climate crisis because it provides the funding needed for resiliency, supports the most vulnerable people and businesses, while enabling the necessary transition from a fossil fuel economy to a sustainable economy.

The current economy depends on burning fossil fuel, a product that is detrimental to human existence, warming the earth, and causing environmental havoc. Many leading economists and scientists worldwide support putting a price on carbon as one of the best tools to deal with the changing climate. CCEJ, HB0 171 provides a clear, workable solution and lays out in straightforward practical terms how and what it will accomplish.

I urge your support of HB0171.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judith Allen-Leventhal  
301-203-2517

Cc: Members of Economic Matters & Environment and Transportation