



Submission date 3/8/2022

HEARING DATE: 3/10/2022

BILL & TITLE: HB0171 - Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act

POSITION: SUPPORT

COMMITTEES: Economic Matters & Environment and Transportation

SPONSOR: Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo

Dear Chairman, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jill McKay. I am a resident of District 16, and I represent the Chesapeake Earth Holders Community of Engaged Buddhism.

The Worldwide Earth Holder Community in the tradition of Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh supports systemic change that protects and preserves the Earth and all who depend on her for life and well-being. We ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on HB171, The Maryland Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act (CCEJ).

At present, our economy is dependent on a product that is detrimental to our very existence. Transportation, electricity and buildings account for nearly 90% of Maryland greenhouse gas emissions. The CCEJ is designed to lower carbon emissions by 60% from 2006 levels by 2030 and get Maryland to net-zero by 2045.

Burning fossil fuel is warming our earth, causing havoc at many levels. By placing an incrementally rising fee on fossil fuel the bill will not only send a market signal to businesses and reduce pollution, it will also create revenue for vulnerable populations, and build the infrastructure we need for a new green economy across the state.

If we start to impose a fee of \$15 per CO2 ton on non-transportation fuel and incrementally raise that fee \$5 a year, capping it at \$60, by 2030 the price of a CO2 ton will be \$50, and we will have met the social cost of carbon. The transportation fee is purposefully lower, starting at \$10 per CO2 ton rising only \$3 per year, capped at \$37.

With a no-pass through provision those costs are not passed down to the end user, but if changes occur in prices, HB0171 designates 80% of the Benefit Fund to go directly back to low moderate-income families to help with any rising cost of living.

The CCEJ is the economic solution to our climate problem. It provides the funding needed for resiliency, and supports the most vulnerable people and businesses as we make the necessary transition from a fossil fuel economy to a sustainable economy.

Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh said, "The earth is not the environment, something outside of us that we need to care for. The earth is us. Taking care of the earth, we take care of ourselves."

For these reasons and more, I ask that you all vote favorably on HB 171 and move this bill out of committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill McKay

Chesapeake Earth Holders Community of Engaged Buddhism

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Cc: Members of the Economic Matters Committee & Environment and Transportation