

March 8th, 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 Alyson Jones and I live in district 22. We have until 2052 at best to get climate change under control worldwide, 30 years at best to get the world to act on saving ourselves. We all know that carbon is a massive contributor to climate change and that burning fuel adds to this massively. We need a way to minimize this as much as we can while also finding ways to fund other green projects so we can reach net-zero emissions. The Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act is a good base in reducing how much carbon goes into the air while funding other green projects and supporting communities that have been disproportionately affected by climate change.

We'll fine fuel companies per ton and that fine could be used as a source of funding for other climate projects such as the 2022 Maryland Climate bill. If you're afraid of fuel pricing raising and how that will affect day-to-day Marylanders, understand there will be a check going back to lower to moderate-income Marylanders to offset this possible raise of cost. Along with a check, housing and business fuel will not rise.

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. The non-transportation fuel fee has a no pass through provision in it that will not allow the cost to get passed down to the average Marylander. Fuel companies will tell you that they cannot afford this fee, this is ridiculous, fuel companies make \$110 billion a year (1) yet they cannot afford a \$15 per ton carbon fee to help us fix their mistakes? They are being disingenuous. How much longer can Marylanders let alone America let alone the world afford to keep enabling these companies to destroy our climate and why must we fight these companies to support us in fixing their mistakes? What are the planet and our quality of life worth to them and you? This bill will protect your constituents and our economy from disingenuous fuel companies who seemingly want to do harm by us for profit. If we don't impose this fee this year, the challenges of our changing climate will grow more and more unpredictable and expensive.

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.

20% of that Benefit Fund is provided to protect high-emission, trade-exposed businesses. Manufacturing makes up about 6% of Maryland's GDP, and is the most prominent example of an energy-intensive trade-exposed (EITE) business.

The CCEJ compliments bills like SB0528 by providing funding for projects like the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022. The CCEJ Infrastructure Fund supports all Maryland counties and municipalities to create their own Climate Action Plan and provides funds to implement them! At least 50% of the Climate Crisis Infrastructure Fund must prioritize communities that have been affected by environmental injustice. Whatever monetary costs that might come from this cannot be worse than the human cost of a person's health due to the effects of climate change along with the monetary cost of medical care. Members of the committee, you more than ever know that Economic Matters and that we are limited on time to act on climate change. We are one state in one country in one world that needs to change. There was a woman who spoke at the Bill hearing that SB0528 was a part of and she said she had stood in that same spot over 30 years ago when she was 12 in support of climate action. I'm 20. I refuse to allow myself to be here 30 years from now still asking for climate action because in 30 years it'll be too late. The economics of HB0171 are sound and will be of benefit to the everyday Marylander; let this bill fund Marylanders and other green projects within the state before it's too late.

I ask that you all vote favorably and move this bill out of committee.
Respectfully submitted,

Alyson Jones

Rebuild Maryland Coalition Student Movement Member

Citizens Climate Lobby Member

202-413-5468

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

Cite:

(1) <https://www.statista.com/statistics/294614/revenue-of-the-gas-and-oil-industry-in-the-us/>