

March 8th, 2022 **HEARING DATE:** **3/10/2022**
BILL: **HB0171**
TITLE: **Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act**
POSITION: **SUPPORT**
COMMITTEE: **Economic Matters**
SPONSOR: **Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo**

Hello Chairman, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Thaddeus Waterman, I live in District 22 in Hyattsville Maryland, and I am honored to be representing the Maryland Leadership of Citizens' Climate Lobby. Citizens' Climate Lobby is a national, nonpartisan, volunteer driven climate advocacy organization. In Maryland our Chapters consist of over 3000 residents from across the State.

The Maryland Leadership of Citizens' Climate Lobby would like to voice our support for HB0171, the Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act.

As volunteers, we are passionate about advocating for solutions to the climate crisis we currently face. Our global dependency on burning fossil fuels is harming, and will continue to harm, not only the climate, but our health, economy, and security. The unprecedented recent flooding in Ellicott City, the increased saltwater intrusion near our coast, and the increased beach erosion are examples of negative effects we are already experiencing here in Maryland. In order to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change yet to come, we need to start drastically cutting our greenhouse gas emissions.

The Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act is part of the solutions we need. We specifically support HB0171 for two primary reasons.

The first reason is that a steadily increasing carbon price, like the one found in the Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act, is the single most cost-effective way to reduce carbon emissions at the scale and speed that is necessary; this is according to over [3500 economists](#). To elaborate, a steadily increasing carbon price encourages the entire free-market economy to innovate towards a low-carbon future, by using a market signal that can be planned for. We need policies in place, such as HB0171, that encourage everyone to share the task of reducing our emissions.

The second reason we specifically support the Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act is it ensures support for the most vulnerable people and businesses as we make the necessary transition from a fossil fuel economy to a sustainable economy. The direct dividends to low and moderate income households are key to ensuring those who will suffer most if we don't act on climate change, don't unnecessarily suffer from our solutions.

Maryland residents, like our local leadership team, want effective and fair climate policies. With the Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act, Maryland has the opportunity to be a leader on climate that the rest of the nation can follow. The Maryland Leadership of Citizens Climate Lobby urges a FAVORABLE REPORT on HB0171. Respectfully submitted,

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Cc: Members of the Economic Matters Committee