

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-Hildago

Dear Chairman, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

We live outside Easton, MD near the Miles River where at only 8 feet above high tide, we are at risk for flooding during a hurricane. Neighbors are losing shoreline at an alarming rate.

As avid birders we travel the Eastern Shore searching for birds. In our travels over the years we have seen land on Hooper's Island and around Blackwater NWR disappear. We have observed dead trees and loss of farmland due to saltwater intrusion. A fellow birder lives on over a 100 acres of farmland and waterfront property in Dorchester County which has been in his family for 300 years. He does not expect this family farm to exist in 50 years. Land that was home to some of our favorite bird species no longer exists. This rate of change in our lifetime is a loud wake up call.

HB0171 is how you can protect your constituents and our economy. It starts with a fee of \$15 per ton of CO2 on non-transportation fuel and incrementally raises that fee \$5 a year, capping it at \$60. By 2020 the price of a ton of CO2 will be \$50, and we will have met the social cost of carbon. The transportation fee is purposefully lower, starting at \$10 per ton of CO2 rising \$3 per year, capped at \$37 per ton. If we don't impose this fee this year, the challenges of our changing climate will grow more unpredictable for everyone.

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 and 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 HB0695 by providing funding for Climate Crisis Plan.

We ask that you all vote favorably and move this bill out of committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda and Peter Yungbluth

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