



Committee: EEE
Testimony: [HB 0993](#) **Commemorative Week: Maryland Climate Education Week**
Submitting: Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi, co-founder/director
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: March 28, 2024 1 PM

Dear Chair and Esteemed Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony in strong support of HB0993, which seeks to establish the first week of April as Maryland Climate Education Week. My name is Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi, and I serve on the Maryland Commission on Climate Change. I am also the co-founder of a fund that supports more than 20 climate nonprofits, many of which focus on climate education.

I live in Annapolis where we are experiencing the increasingly alarming impact of climate change, particularly through recurrent flooding incidents plaguing our community.

As you know, people are already feeling it across our great state. From tragic deaths to the devastating consequences felt in places including Rockville and Ellicott City, and the profound effects on farming and fishing across our state, climate change is already posing significant challenges.

Despite these challenges, public awareness regarding the causes of climate change, actionable steps for mitigation, and the state's role in protecting citizens from extreme weather events remains inadequate. It is crucial to bridge this information gap to empower our residents to make informed choices for the well-being of our communities.

In today's era, where misinformation abounds, it is imperative that education and public information be grounded in scientific facts. Maryland Climate Education Week can offer our residents a solid foundation of knowledge to navigate the complex landscape of climate change.

Moreover, there exist substantial federal incentives amounting to billions of dollars to support the transition to clean energy practices. Regrettably, public awareness of these incentives is lacking. Maryland Climate Education Week presents a unique opportunity to intensify efforts in informing our residents about these federal dollars. This, in turn, can facilitate the adoption of clean and cost-saving improvements such as heat pumps, insulation, solar technologies, electric vehicles, and more. This is especially helpful to LMI households.

By establishing Maryland Climate Education Week, we are not only fostering a deeper understanding of climate issues but also creating a platform to harness federal incentives for the benefit of our state's residents.

It is my earnest hope that you will support this initiative so we can work collaboratively to achieve our climate goals.

Our family fund will continue to support these efforts but we need more partnership from Maryland's government.

Together we can ensure a sustainable and resilient future for all the people of our great state.

Thank you for your consideration.