

Stein Testimony HB 993 Senate.pdf

Uploaded by: Dana Stein

Position: FAV

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Legislative District 11B
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SPEAKER PRO TEM
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Environment and Transportation
Committee

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The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Delegate Dana Stein Testimony in Support of HB 993
Commemorative Weeks – Maryland Climate Education Week

Each year, the Maryland Commission on Climate Change issues a report with recommendations for the legislature and state agencies to consider. In Fall of 2023, the Commission issued a report with 27 recommendations. One of the recommendations, from the Workgroup on Education, Communication and Outreach (ECO), was to declare the first week of April, which is Earth Month, as “Climate Education Week.”

This declaration would provide an opportunity for state agencies, local governments, and private organizations to provide educational opportunities on climate issues. The ECO workgroup will provide free online resources for teachers and instructors to use. The idea is to encourage anything from short discussions in the classroom to day-long or half-day seminars, if desired.

An example of the type of activity envisioned is a climate teach-in, one which is taking place from April 1 to 7 in schools around the State. This teach-in will focus on education on climate change and solutions.

I hope you will give HB 993 a favorable vote.

MCCC Testimony in support of HB993_Jabari Walker_3

Uploaded by: Jabari Walker

Position: FAV

Favorable testimony re HB 993, Sen. Feldman

Education, Energy, and the Environment, March 28, 2024, 1:00 p.m.

Chair Feldman and esteemed members of the committee, I am Jabari Walker, Sustainability and Energy Coordinator at Bowie State University and Co-Chair of the Education, Communication, and Outreach Working Group of the bi-partisan Maryland Commission on Climate Change.

The Commission stands with Delegate Stein in endorsing HB 993 for several crucial reasons. First, the bill helps to uphold Maryland's rich tradition of environmental stewardship, aiming to preserve the state's natural beauty and resources. This bill recognizes that climate change is a pressing threat to our environment, economy, and public health. Observing an annual Climate Education Week will raise much needed awareness about the causes and solutions of climate pollution on Maryland's vulnerable land, and the health & well-being of all Marylanders. This bill will help to foster partnerships with educational, research, community and faith-based institutions surrounding this awareness.

HB 993 has extraordinary support by renowned organizations, for which the Commission is grateful. We are also grateful to Ms. Mary Kay Connerton, Maryland's Teacher of the Year, and also spokeswoman for the Commission's

2024 Maryland Climate Education Teach-In. I would like to quote some of her written testimony from her written testimony for the House Bill:

She wrote: "I applaud Delegate Stein and the General Assembly members working with teachers and community groups to make Maryland Climate Education Week a reality. It signifies commitment to our children.

We must equip our youth with climate competencies - their future depends on it. HB 993 is an easy, positive step to take."

This cost-free legislation to simply create "Maryland Climate Education Week" showcases Maryland's leadership in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting public awareness of the state's climate goals and possible solutions, and will likely set a national precedent.

Thank you all for your consideration.

Jabari S. Walker, MPA

Sustainability & Energy Coordinator, Bowie State University

Co-chair: ECO Workgroup, Maryland Commission on Climate Change

Maryland Climate Education Week HB 0993 EEE versio

Uploaded by: Jennifer Mizrahi

Position: FAV



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.

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Uploaded by: Kate Fritz

Position: FAV



March 14, 2024

Bill: HB 993 - Commemorative Weeks - Maryland Climate Education Week
Position: Support

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Committee,

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (“the Alliance”) respectfully requests a favorable report for House Bill 993 - Commemorative Weeks - Maryland Climate Education Week, which would establish the first week of April as a time to encourage all Marylanders to participate in climate educational activities and take action toward the State’s climate commitment.

The Alliance restores the lands and waters of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Our collaborative and action-oriented approach delivers on-the-ground solutions, technical assistance, and builds capacity to achieve healthier lands and waters.

In Maryland, the Alliance collaborates with all four of the state’s Historically Black Universities (HBCUs) to increase student exposure to green careers through experiential learning, workforce development opportunities, and jointly developed restoration projects. Since 2021, the Alliance has coordinated and co-planned with our Maryland HBCU partners over 14 seminars reaching 300+ students. We identify each Chesapeake Bay-related seminar topic based on the issues of most importance to the student body. Climate change and its intersection with environmental justice are consistently top of the list. In particular, we see this interest within the Bowie State University community, with whom we hold our most mature HBCU partnership. For example, together we hosted a [Climate Justice Dinner & Dialogue](#) in 2022 and a Leadership in Climate Action Town Hall as part of the [inaugural 2023 Maryland Climate Teach-In](#).

It is clear to the Alliance that the next generation of Maryland’s HBCU graduates and environmental stewards are asking us to prioritize and commit to climate education and action. The establishment of Maryland Climate Education Week would be an impactful way to reaffirm Maryland as a leader in climate change education. It would also signal to these students that the state takes climate change action as seriously as they do. **We urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 993.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Fritz", is displayed above a horizontal line.

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HB 993 MDE SUP.pdf

Uploaded by: Les Knapp

Position: FAV



*The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain*

House Bill 993- Commemorative Weeks - Maryland Climate Education Week

Position: Support

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Date: March 28, 2024

From: Hadley Anthony

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** HB 993.

Bill Summary

The bill would require the Governor to annually proclaim the first week of April as Maryland Climate Education Week. The proclamation would urge Marylanders to participate in educational activities and initiatives that promote an awareness of climate change and take action toward the State's climate commitments.

Position Rationale

MDE supports environmental education and climate change action for people of all ages. This bill would encourage all Marylanders, including Maryland's youth, to become more aware of climate change and participate in activities that further positive action. The bill would also encourage schools, local governments, state agencies, private organizations, and higher education institutions to host educational workshops and events. Finally, the bill aligns with one of the recommendations from the 2023 Maryland Commission on Climate Change Annual Report.

Accordingly, MDE urges a **FAVORABLE** report for HB 993.

Contact: Les Knapp, Government Relations Director
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HB 993 - National Aquarium -Favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Maggie Ostdahl

Position: FAV



NATIONAL AQUARIUM®

Date: March 28, 2024

Bill: HB 993 – Commemorative Weeks – Maryland Climate Education Week

Position: Support

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee:

The National Aquarium respectfully requests a favorable report for **House Bill 993 – Commemorative Weeks – Maryland Climate Education Week**, which would establish the first week of April, at the start of Earth Month, as a time to encourage all Marylanders to participate in climate educational activities and take action toward the State's climate commitments.

The National Aquarium connects people with nature to inspire conservation action; combatting climate change is one of our three overarching goals. We take a holistic approach which encompasses climate mitigation, adaptation, education, and communication. We recognize that not everyone is experiencing climate impacts to the same degree, and climate solutions should prioritize equity and environmental justice. The National Aquarium is committed to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2035. We work with communities and partners throughout the state to implement nature-based solutions that support climate resilience and have decades of experience in translating ocean and climate science. We advocate for policies, like this one, that empower people to learn about and act on climate.

The National Aquarium welcomes 1.2 million visitors and engages thousands of people throughout the country through our public messaging each year. We aim to educate and empower our audience to take meaningful actions to address climate change. Climate change and climate solutions are not discussed as often and as openly as they should be. Research shows that across the U.S., majorities of Americans understand global warming is happening, is driven by human activities, and is causing harm¹. Most Marylanders support climate policy solutions and think that schools should teach about climate change². However, 65% of Americans report rarely or never discussing climate change in their communities; only 40% of Marylanders say they have at least occasional climate change conversations.

Maryland is a climate leader with a commitment to environmental justice. Our state has enacted some of the most ambitious climate goals in the country, but to achieve these goals we need to talk more about climate change and solutions. We appreciate the work of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change and its efforts to expand climate conversations and applaud Delegate Stein's sponsorship of this bill to ensure that climate education gets the spotlight it deserves for at least one week each year. The time is now: climate impacts will continue to worsen without implementation of existing policies and further action. Broad climate awareness and discussions among Marylanders of all ages and backgrounds will help catalyze community involvement, equitable workforce development, and progress toward a more livable and resilient future. **We urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 993.**

Contact:

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¹ Leiserowitz, A. et al. 2023. Climate Change in the American Mind: Beliefs & Attitudes, Fall 2023. Available: <https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/publications/climate-change-in-the-american-mind-beliefs-attitudes-fall-2023/>

² Yale Climate Opinion Maps 2023. Available: <https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/visualizations-data/ycom-us/>

HB 993 - CBF - FAV - EEE.pdf

Uploaded by: Matt Stegman

Position: FAV



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 993

Commemorative Weeks - Maryland Climate Education Week

Date: March 28, 2024

To: Environment & Transportation Committee

Position: **Favorable**

From: Matt Stegman
Maryland Staff Attorney

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** HB 993, which would require the Governor to annually declare the first week of April Maryland Climate Education Week. The proclamation would encourage Marylanders to participate in educational activities and take actions to move Maryland towards its ambitious climate goals.

Left unchecked, climate change threatens Bay recovery, our economy, and our very existence. But there's still time to change course, protect the Bay, and save our planet. Since humans were the cause, we must also be the solution. But it will take all of us—in the Bay watershed and around the world—to make that change last. Declaring a week every year for Marylanders to educate themselves about climate change and take meaningful action will help elevate awareness among our residents both of the immense challenge of addressing climate change and the concrete steps we can all take to do our part.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 993.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

Maryland Office • Philip Merrill Environmental Center • 6 Herndon Avenue • Annapolis • Maryland • 21403

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.

HB993 - MDLCV support with sign on Senate Testimon

Uploaded by: Rebecca Rehr

Position: FAV



March 28, 2024

SUPPORT: HB 993 Commemorative Weeks - Maryland Climate Education Week

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV and the organizations below support HB 993 Commemorative Weeks - Maryland Climate Education Week and we thank Delegate Stein for his enduring leadership on this issue.

HB 993 has a simple premise, to proclaim the first week in April Maryland Climate Education Week, with a projected outside impact to create the space for students of any age across Maryland to engage in projects, education, and advocacy to raise awareness about climate impacts and solutions.

Declaring “Climate Education Week” is a recommendation in the 2023 [Maryland Commission on Climate Change Annual Report](#). The Education, Communications, and Outreach (ECO) Working Group “recommends that the Maryland General Assembly proclaims the first week of April, coinciding with Earth Month, as “Climate Education Week.” This annual declaration would provide a unique opportunity for state agencies, county and municipal governments, and private organizations to come together in celebration and education. During Climate Education Week, schools, colleges, universities, and various institutions can host exceptional events, workshops, and activities that focus on climate education and action. The ECO is fully committed to providing abundant resources to assist all Marylanders who wish to participate in and celebrate this week, fostering a culture of climate consciousness throughout our state. By implementing these recommendations, our state will make significant strides toward enhancing public awareness, education, and engagement in climate action, ultimately contributing to our shared goals of reducing [greenhouse gas] GHG emissions and building a more equitable, sustainable, and resilient future for all Marylanders.”

The first week in April is a strategic decision, as it is [Worldwide Climate and Justice Education Week](#) and National Public Health Week, which usually has a dedicated [daily theme](#) of climate change because of the recognized impacts on human health and wellbeing. An example of information provided is the [Climate and Health Youth Education Toolkit](#). Bringing these international and national themes to Maryland gives us the opportunity to join a global movement in supporting a healthy climate and environment for future generations.

Youth across the country face ecoanxiety in the face of a changing climate, with [demonstrated improvements in mental health when they are part of the solution](#). Education is the universal key to unlocking a student’s potential. Declaring the first week of April “Maryland Climate Education Week” gives students opportunities across the state to unlock their potential to contribute to climate solutions and lean into our state’s leadership.

Maryland LCV and the groups undersigned below urge a favorable report on this important bill.

Assateague Coastal Trust
Audubon Mid-Atlantic
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universal Environmental Justice Ministry
The Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund
Clean Water Action

Climate Communications Coalition
Climate Diet/Sustainable Earth Eating
Climate Reality Greater Maryland
Climate Parents of Prince George's
Elders Climate Action Maryland
Howard County Conservancy
Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake
Maryland Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate
Maryland Legislative Coalition
Maryland Public Health Association
National Aquarium
Rebuild Maryland Coalition
Safe Healthy Playing Fields Inc.
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

2024 HB0993 Testimony Against 2024-03-28.pdf

Uploaded by: Alan Lang

Position: UNF

Honorable Senators

I oppose HB0993.

If the public is not already aware of climate change when it seems it is in the news almost daily, creating a climate awareness week is not going to help.

There are far more serious problems facing Maryland that you need to address without wasting your time on frivolous bills like this one.

Please vote against HB0993.

Alan Lang, District 31
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HB993-OPPOSE.pdf

Uploaded by: Linda Diefenbach

Position: UNF

HB993-OPPOSE

This bill is a waste of time, energy and most certainly Maryland tax payer dollars.

Please oppose this bill.

Linda Diefenbach
Middletown, MD

HB0993.pdf

Uploaded by: Suzanne Price

Position: UNF

HB0993 is more UN Agenda21 Climate NONSENSE hustle. SAY NO.

Suzanne Price
AACo, Maryland