



Adamah

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Hearing before the
Maryland House
March 14, 2024

**Statement of Support (FAVORABLE)
of the Jewish Youth Climate Movement Beth-El Chizuk Amuno Chapter on
HB0993 Maryland Climate Education Week**

Good afternoon. Our names are Morgan Robb and Julia Levin, and we are high school students residing in Pikesville and youth climate activists through Adamah's Jewish Youth Climate Movement (JYCM), a national teen-led initiative fighting for collective climate action through a Jewish lens.

Today, we are writing to you to express our strong support for bill 0993 to establish a Maryland climate education week.

We, as students and climate conscious teens, believe that climate education is a crucial experience for all of our peers as we learn to live in a world that is being significantly impacted by climate change.

Through our work with our local Baltimore JYCM chapter, we have seen the importance of educating younger generations about the climate crisis. For the past two years, we have volunteered at nearby synagogues, Beth El and Chizuk Amuno Congregations, teaching Hebrew school students age-appropriate lessons about the climate and how to take individual action towards building a more sustainable future.

A few weeks ago, we were teaching a third-grade class about the Jewish holiday Tu B'shevat, a celebration of the trees. When we asked the students what their favorite thing to do in nature was, their hands all shot up with excitement. They were so eager to share their love for the outdoors: their memories at Ocean City at the beach and their hikes with their families at Lake Roland. While teaching about ways to protect the environment and mitigate the effects of climate change, like using renewable energy or making climate-conscious purchases, the students also expressed great interest. Some shared how their family installed solar panels, while others shared how they compost to reduce food waste in landfills. It was clear that they had a love for Maryland's natural beauty and had a collective interest in helping to preserve the environment.

We have seen through our own experience that educating young people on how they can improve the climate truly transforms their relationship to nature, their attitude towards interacting with the environment, and their ability to improve our society as these children grow up and become climate-conscious citizens. Maryland has done an outstanding job passing legislation that builds a more sustainable future and we want to make sure that the younger generations feel empowered and educated to contribute to these goals.

We believe that this bill is crucial to protecting Maryland's climate and natural beauty for generations to come. Please vote in favor of this bill to educate our children and build a future where citizens are mindful of the repercussions of their actions on the climate. Thank you for your support.