

(March 10, 2020)

BILL: SB 912
TITLE: Climate Crisis and Education Act
POSITION: SUPPORT
HEARING DATE: 3/11/2020
COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation
SPONSOR: Senator Benjamin Kramer

The Transit Alternatives to the Mid-County Highway Extended (TAME) Coalition supports SB 912, the Climate Crisis and Education Act.

This initiative establishes greenhouse gas reduction goals, including 100% reduction of carbon emissions from 2006 levels as of 2040 that are similar to those of Montgomery County's Emergency Climate Resolution.

This initiative also establishes a greenhouse gas pollution fee, and a high-emissions vehicle fee, that will raise \$350 million each year for education in Maryland (e.g. the Kirwan Initiative), and for green infrastructure projects and benefits to lower- and moderate-income families.

The Climate Crisis Council will be charged with ensuring that a just economic transition provides for the livelihood of workers in the fossil fuel industry. Low-income and moderate-income households will be protected from any economic harms arising from the fossil fuel fees that this plan would impose.

The Infrastructure Fund that this bill would create, would provide funding for improved access to public transportation, renewable energy sources and energy efficiency, and other benefits, to low-income and moderate-income families. This aspect of SB 912 is especially important to the residents of the 355 corridor, including Montgomery Village, Gaithersburg, Germantown and Clarksburg, where a higher percentage of residents are younger, and lower-income, compared with the population of Montgomery County as a whole.

By helping to provide transition funds for frontline communities, this legislation advances climate justice in Maryland – including for Montgomery County communities in the Route 355 corridor.

For these reasons and more, the TAME Coalition urges a FAVORABLE REPORT ON SB 912.

Respectfully submitted,

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Cc: Members of the Budget and Finance Committee