

January 29, 2021

BILL: SB0076
TITLE: Climate Crisis and Education Act
POSITION: SUPPORT
HEARING DATE: 2/2/2021
COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation
SPONSOR: Senator Benjamin Kramer

Dear Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

For the sake of global food security and human health, we must implement the Climate Crisis and Education Act. It is a chance for our state to take leadership on the climate crisis and demonstrate to the nation how Maryland uses the market to stop the climate crisis.

As a plant biology researcher in a lab at the University of Maryland, I am familiar with the effects of climate change on crop plants. Heat and dry conditions affect plants in many ways; for example, in strawberry, tomato, and many other crops, high temperatures destroy pollen. Fruit and grain crops require pollination to initiate fruit, and fruit initiation is reduced in hot weather.

Labs like mine are attempting to develop strawberry varieties that bypass pollination and initiate fruit directly, anticipating that climate change will make pollination a rarer event in years to come. Of course, other teams of plant science researchers are dedicated to the same pollination issue in other species.

Still other teams are dedicated to other problems crops face in a changing climate: how to initiate flowers and stay alive in adverse conditions. The magnitude of the job is absurd- how can we breed and engineer new varieties of every species in the produce section of a grocery store?

Instead of trying to develop new crop varieties that can stand up to climate change, it is far more sensible to stop climate change at the source by taxing emitters of greenhouse gases.

For these reasons and more, I, Madison Plunkert, urge a FAVORABLE REPORT on SB0076.

Respectfully submitted,
Madison Plunkert
14419 Falls Rd
Cockeysville, MD 21030
mplunkert@gmail.com
410-493-5778

cc: Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee