

January 28, 2021

Maryland Senate  
11 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, MD. 21401

**In Support of SB 76: Climate Crisis and Education Act of 2021**

Good day members of the Budget & Taxation, and Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committees.

I am writing to you today to support for establishing a Climate Crisis Council here within the state of Maryland. It is the kind of bold strokes needed to help study ways to reduce greenhouse gases in our region of the country.

Please support this legislation so that we can start the long process of reducing greenhouse gases from our environment with the hope of improving air quality across Maryland and the larger DMV. Imposing a tax on the fossil fuels and carbon being burned within our state is another positive step forward.

As a species, we need to do more to protect our precious natural resources and to help safeguard our local ecosystem. After rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement, President Joe R. Biden just announced a new focus on environmental policy by appointing former Sen. John Kerry to help lead this national and worldwide effort. Let's help to build on President Biden's efforts.

Green technologies are and will be the future drivers of the world's economies. Let's take the money collected from fossil fuel taxes and re-invest it into cleaner, greener state infrastructure and technologies that will help reduce carbon dioxide from our air. And help to create more good paying, 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs for our current and future generations of citizens.

Patchwork solutions seldom work well. We need policy that is bold, wide reaching, and can make a positive impact across the state, our country and across our planet. A climate crisis council can help to improve our state's environmental policy. As well as helping to influence the environmental policies of our regional neighbors. While working in concert together to reduce greenhouse gases emissions, and improve the quality of our air across this region of the country. Let's strive to be a model for other states and other countries to follow while working to slow the effects of global climate change.

Please vote to support SB 76 and return a favorable vote on this important bill.  
Thank you for your time and considering of my testimony today.

Mr. Richard Ceruolo,  
Parent and advocate for children with disabilities, Maryland families, and Maryland's environment.  
Parent Advocacy Consortium