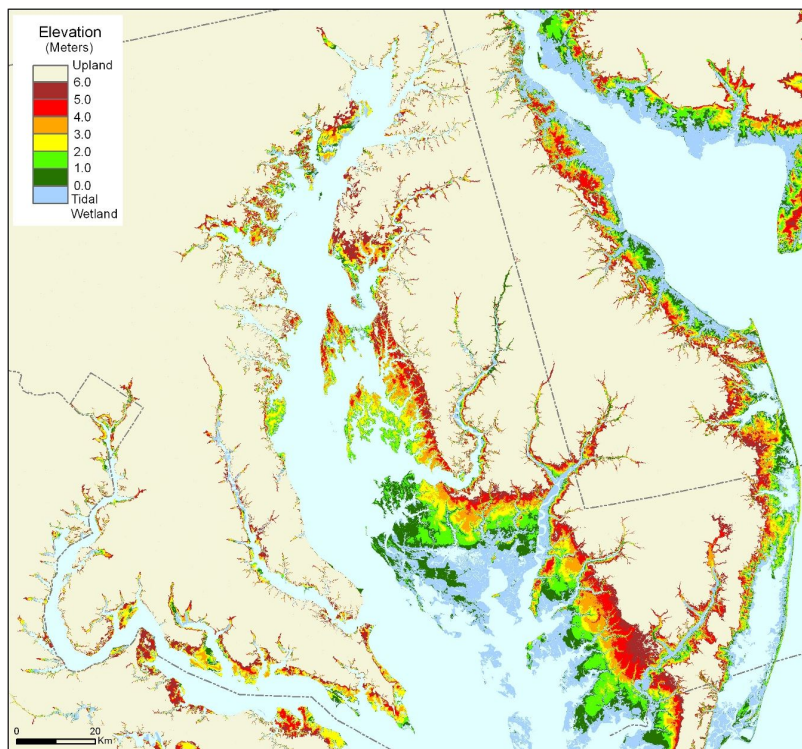


**Testimony in Support of
Climate Crisis and Education Act (SB 0076)
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs and Budget and Tax Committees
February 2, 2021**

**Jamie DeMarco, Federal and Maryland Policy Director
Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund**

On behalf of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund, I strongly urge a favorable report on SB 0414, The Climate Crisis and Education Act of 2021. The children of Maryland deserve a world class education and livable world in which to use that education. The Climate Crisis and Education Act will work to give them both of those things.

This week [new satellite data](#) found that rates of melting ice around the world match the worst case scenarios from scientific modeling. [In those worst case scenarios](#), the oceans rise 8 feet by 2100. [The map](#) below shows that if we let this happen, then children born today will live to see Ocean City disappear beneath the waves.



Elevations of Land Close to Sea Level
Elevations are above spring high water, which is the average high tide during new and full moons, and approximately the inland boundary of tidal wetlands. This map is a general graphical representation of elevations in the area depicted; not designed to estimate the precise elevations at specific locations. Due to the use of a variety of data sources, the accuracy of this map varies. Elevations at specific locations are generally within 30 cm above or below the elevation depicted along the Eastern Shore south of Rock Hall and in Baltimore County, 75 cm in Anne Arundel County and the states of Delaware and New Jersey, and 150 cm elsewhere.
Source: J. G. Titus and J. Wang, 2008. "Maps of Lands Close to Sea Level along the Mid-Atlantic Coast". US Environmental Protection Agency.



To avoid this fate we must reduce our greenhouse gas emissions at least 60% by 2030 and have net zero emissions by 2045. To achieve emission reductions of this scale we will need funds. We will need to protect our workers who have kept the lights on for decades. We need to invest in black and brown communities that have been overburdened by fossil fuel infrastructure. We need to pay for homes to switch from gas furnaces to electric heat pumps. All of this will cost money, and taxpayers should not have to foot the bill. Big fossil fuels executives should.

The fossil fuel industry knew the science of climate change back in the 80s that the science of climate change is incontrovertible and catastrophic. They raised the decks on their oil wells because they knew the seas would rise. Then they went about lying and deceiving the public for 40 years. They have successfully stymied meaningful climate legislation in Congress and gotten us into this crisis. They are responsible for this damage, and they should be the ones who have to pay.

This legislation would take wealth from the fossil fuel industry and put it into education, the pockets of every day Marylanders, and climate solutions. This bill will improve the economy, reduce racial disparities, grow the economy, and help solve the climate crisis.

We urge a favorable report.

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