

TESTIMONY TO THE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

SB0076 Climate Crisis and Education Act Support

POSITION: Support

BY: Ruth Auerbach, District 13 Resident, Columbia, MD

Date: February 2, 2021

The planet is heading toward a climate crisis. The impacts are already being felt and will get much worse if we continue emitting greenhouse gasses at the current rate. According to more recent research, even the targets for greenhouse gas reduction set in earlier legislation are likely to still leave us vulnerable to disastrous climate outcomes. The Climate Crisis and Education Act sets stronger targets for greenhouse gas emissions. It charges fuel suppliers for the carbon dioxide emissions generated by their products, which will encourage the adaption of clean energy. It puts the money raised by the fees toward climate resilient infrastructure, relief for low-income energy customers, a just transition for workers in the fossil fuel sector, and money toward the Kirwan Education Fund. This is a bill that will make Maryland a national leader in climate action.

I urge your support for SB0076.