

**Committees: Economic Matters & Environment and Transportation**  
**Testimony on: HB 33 - "Climate Crisis and Education Act"**

**Organization: Climate Parents of Prince George's**  
**Person Submitting: Joseph Jakuta, Lead Volunteer**  
**Position: Favorable**  
**Hearing Date: February 18, 2021**

Climate Parents of Prince George's supports HB 33, "Climate Crisis and Education Act"

We are thankful for the introduction of this legislation. This bill is the type of holistic approach to the climate emergency that is needed.

In the most recent greenhouse gas inventory for the state of Maryland, Maryland Department of Environment calculated that 47% of our greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation and residential fuel use, sectors that have not been tackled well through previous efforts. This legislation gets at the heart of this problem, in a thoughtful and efficient way.

One of the biggest concerns with tackling the transportation and residential energy sectors is its impact on regular Marylanders. Working families should not have to bear the brunt of the transition and by including the dividend approach in the legislation through the Benefit Fund this legislation makes great strides to make sure working families are not left out. We are slightly concerned that this program will not be implemented in a fashion to make the linkage that the Benefit Fund is offsetting the higher fuel costs crystal clear and encourage that this relationship be made salient upon implementation.

Including the funding for Kirwin priorities is also important to tie to the collections of the carbon fees. Each successive generation will face greater and greater impacts from the climate crisis. While an unaltered climate would be the perfect thing to leave the children of today and those in future generations, we unfortunately have already baked in a certain level of warming that they will have to adapt to. The least we can do is, in turn, provide more resources, in particular knowledge and education, to give them the tools to successfully adapt to the harsher world we will be leaving.

We are also supportive of inclusion of reinvestment in infrastructure through this legislation. Investing in clean infrastructure, especially when related to reducing the need for use of fossil fuel for transportation and home energy use will ensure that the transition is less harmful to the most Marylanders. We agree that priority should be towards historically disadvantaged communities and towards funding growth of local economies.

The approach undertaken in the Climate Crisis and Education Act is exactly the type of holistic approach that links the solutions to the climate crisis with funding mechanisms to encourage change in individual behavior, while making strides to benefit the frontline communities and young people that will be most harmed by climate change. If enacted, this legislation will show that Maryland is a national leader in developing reasonable solutions to the climate crisis and demonstrating again that we can be a model for all to follow.

We encourage a FAVORABLE report for this important legislation.