

February 16, 2021

BILL: HB0033
TITLE: Climate Crisis and Education Act
POSITION: SUPPORT
HEARING DATE: 2/18/2021
COMMITTEE: Economic Matters
SPONSOR: Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo

I live in Talbot County and as an avid birder, I travel throughout the Eastern Shore. In the last ten years I have witnessed shoreline eroding at an alarming rate in my neighborhood and throughout the waterfront communities in which I bird. From Hooper's Island to Blackwater NWR there has been an alarming loss of acreage. There are dead trees and loss of farms from salt water intrusion. Some species of birds have already lost their habitats. A fellow birder from Dorchester County lives on a waterfront farm that has been in his family for over 300 years. He states that his entire farm will disappear within 50 years.

The Climate Crisis and Education Act (CCEA) provides the impactful solutions that are needed now to prevent further climate crisis disasters on the Eastern Shore. It will generate billions of dollars for investment in clean energy infrastructure and our children's education, while providing benefits to Maryland's small businesses and most vulnerable populations.

CCEA gradually escalates the price of carbon pollution by establishing a non-transportation fuel fee starting at \$15/ton of CO2 per year, increasing \$5 /ton per year to a cap of \$60/ton. Transportation fuel fee starts at \$10/ton of CO2 per year, increases \$3/ton per year and is capped at \$37/ton. Gradually escalating the price of carbon pollution offers energy companies regulatory certainty for future planning. This will eventually make renewable sources of energy more economic and incentivize energy companies to increase renewables in their portfolio. These fees contribute to the Climate Crisis and Infrastructure Fund to achieve fossil fuel emissions mitigation, build resilient infrastructure and provide a just transition to Maryland's new clean energy economy.

CCEA also will contribute to the Household and Employer Benefit Fund to protect low-income households and energy-intensive trade-exposed businesses from financial harm. It also helps fossil fuel-dependent workers and communities make the transition to a clean energy economy.

CCEA will deliver hundreds of millions of dollars each year to help fund the Kirwan Education Fund.

We must make bold moves now to confront sea-level rise, soil erosion, saltwater intrusion and the decline in commercial and private property values on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

For these reasons and more, I (Linda Yungbluth) urge a FAVORABLE REPORT on HB0033.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Yungbluth
410 819 3793

Cc: Members of the Budget and Finance Committee