

February 18 2021

Testimony on House Bill 33
Climate Crisis and Education Act
House Economic Matters Committee

Position: Favorable

Maryland Nonprofits is a statewide association of more than 1200 nonprofit organizations and institutions. We urge you to support House Bill 33, the Climate Crisis and Education Act.

The quality of the environment has a significant impact on the health of our communities. Public infrastructure, and environmental hazards often have disproportionate effects on low-income communities and communities of color. At the same time, Investments in sustainable development and in growing our “green economy” have great potential for expanding jobs and protecting against both the impact of climate change and the health problems associated with pollution.

House Bill 33 incentivizes the reduction of fossil fuel CO2 emissions, and its passage would put Maryland on a commonsense, practical pathway toward a sustainable, vibrant economy. It will provide protective benefits to Maryland’s trade-exposed small businesses and its most vulnerable populations: low- and moderate-income households, while generating billions of dollars for investment in clean energy infrastructure and our children’s education.

The Climate Crisis and Education Act (or “CCEA”) will:

- Promote clean, non-fossil energy and energy efficiency in all energy consuming sectors;
- Promote environmental justice by ensuring low- and moderate-income residents, especially those disproportionately impacted by fossil fuel pollution, have equal access to more efficient and cleaner energy;
- Increase resiliency of infrastructure, households and businesses against changing climate and associated catastrophic weather events; and
- Provide a just transition for Marylanders who have lost jobs and associated benefits as a result of reductions in fossil fuel use.

We urge you to give House Bill 33 a favorable report.

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