



**Testimony in Support of HB 33 – Climate Crisis and Education Act
(Delegate Fraser Hidalgo)
FAVORABLE**

February 18, 2021

Dear Chairman Davis and Members of the Economic Matters Committee:

In addition to our organizational testimony in support of HB 33, Strong Future Maryland is proud to present the public comments of more than 60 Maryland residents who strongly support this legislation. The people of Maryland want our state to be a climate leader, and take decisive steps to protect our environment and our future. Many of them write about wanting their children and grandchildren to inherit a livable planet; others highlight the importance of addressing environmental justice through public policy. The message is clear: Marylanders support HB 33, and are calling on the General Assembly to take climate action this session.

Public Comment:

Molly Hauck
Montgomery County

The CCEA holds fossil fuel polluters accountable and invests in clean energy infrastructure. Each year, funds generated from the CCEA will be directed to protect low-income households and energy-intensive trade exposed (EITE) businesses from financial harm. [The CCEA] supports the Kirwan Commission's recommendations by becoming a revenue source for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

Patricia Brech
Cecil County

We are already seeing devastation from unusual weather events. And, as a mother and grandmother, I worry about what kind of world my generation is leaving those who follow. If we don't act now, I fear for the future devastation.

Robin Williams
Prince George's County

We the residents of Maryland deserve a climate with clean air and an opportunity for new clean energy sources for transportation, emissions and other sources. Maryland legislators were elected to serve in the best interest of the people, especially our elder, our working families and our children, our future.

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Susan Olsen
Dorchester County

We are already drowning on the Eastern Shore. The effects of climate change, especially flooding, are evident in my county.

Judith Allen-Leventhal
Prince George's County

The bill offers a practical and common sense approach to what truly is a crisis. This is not hyperbole: there is a climate crisis that may not be reversed without constructive action now. Maryland needs to show leadership and adopt this legislation now.

Meagen Williams
Montgomery County

I support the Climate Crisis and Education Act because we need immediate, transformative action to prevent the worst of climate change. Our coastal communities will be devastated by sea level rise. We must act.

Richard Allen
Montgomery County

[I support the CCEA] because our educational, science-public health and families of Maryland are depending on this legislation for the future.

Tyler Lundfelt
Baltimore County

I believe carbon pricing is the most important step towards combating Climate Change. I also like that the benefits are fed back into our infrastructure and education.

Linda Silversmith
Montgomery County

If we had started fighting climate change 40 years ago, we would be in a lot better place today -- now we have to really rush it.

Bente Cooney
Queen Anne's County

Global warming is a fact as scientists have shown us. It is time to act before it is irreversible. Our children and grandchildren will suffer and blame us for sticking our heads in a hole and pretend it is not happening. Be courageous and act now!

Kevin Bender
Montgomery County

Pricing carbon is the only solution that is fast enough to address climate change.

Leslie Wharton
Montgomery County

This is essential for the health and welfare of our children and grandchildren.

Daniel Clohossey
Montgomery County

We need reasonable solutions like these in order to more quickly improve the outlook for the future world we are bequeathing to our kids and grandkids.

Cecilia Plante
Frederick County

I think it's time that the polluters gave back to the generations that they have harmed by helping to pay for our children's education.

James Bell
Montgomery County

I believe clean and sustainable energy policies are effective in fighting negative climate change affecting all persons and the U.S. economy.

Dominique Edmondson
Prince George's County

Build a green economy that works for everyone.

Linda Murphy
Prince George's County

The climate crisis is jeopardizing life on Earth as we know it. Every aspect of life is already being affected by an increasing number and intensity of fires, by stronger and more frequent hurricanes, by freak weather systems that bring 100 year rains to areas, including Maryland's Hyattsville community where my neighbors have had their basements flood twice in the last few years due to overwhelmed sewer systems, etc. If we do not do everything in our power to address climate change, life on Earth as we know it will cease to exist.

Dr. Craig Ilgenfritz
Baltimore County

Our existence is at stake if we do not effectively act now!

G. Countryman-Mills
Montgomery County

We do not have time to dither and postpone any longer. Please act now!

Sister Patricia Kirk
Baltimore County

Climate change and our attention to it is LONG overdue!

Taina Litwak
Montgomery County

Our air and water quality MATTER.

Tracey Katsouros
Charles County

We need to build a green economy that works for everyone, and give crucial support to underserved communities impacted by climate change. We must do everything we can as soon as possible.

Peggy Meyer
Baltimore City

We are destroying our planet and the poor are suffering disproportionately. We need to care!

Anne Matey
Wicomico County

We are in danger of losing many plants that can not adapt quickly enough to climate change. This will directly affect our entire ecosystem and disruption of the environment with detrimental effects!

John Hamilton
Howard County

Our children deserve a CLEAN environment.

Marijane Monck
Howard County

We can't waste any more time and must act now.

Aaeron Robb
Baltimore City

We will have no future without true change.

Amy Mason
Baltimore County

Climate change affects all living things - humans, plants and animals. More severe storms that result from climate change are devastating communities by damaging homes and businesses. Those with lower incomes are most severely affected by climate change because their options are limited. This in turn hurts everyone. We need to act now to help limit the damage.

Lisa Finstrom
Montgomery County

We face catastrophic climate consequences if we don't act.

Gail Fisher
Montgomery County

We are losing our canopy, our insects, our birds, and all else that sustains life.

Molly Hauk
Montgomery County

Climate change is extremely important. We have to put it first.

Anna Weitzman

Montgomery County

We are all dependent on healthy ecosystems for our survival. These ecosystems are facing destabilization and extinctions from climate change that will endanger humans as well as all other organisms. We must do all we can to protect our planet.

Paula Willey

Frederick County

We need to protect and clean our environment for ourselves, our children and our future Marylanders.

Andrew Bare

Frederick County

We need to treat the climate crisis seriously. Even as a small state, we are a wealthy state and need to do our part. If we can't figure it out, how can we expect others to.

David Seldin

Howard County

Increased warming and more extreme weather events will be catastrophic and costly.

Beverly Antonio

Queen Anne's County

It's crucial that we address climate change immediately. We already have frequent extreme weather, hotter temperatures and, here on the Eastern Shore, too much rain. It's wreaking havoc with my well and septic system. Our farmers are worried too.

Sharon Nakhimovsky

Montgomery County

There will be no better time to act. The urgency is real, the danger is towards livability on earth. Please take this step towards science, towards life for our children and children's children. Please be brave and put long term interests for humanity and our ecosystem ahead of the short term needs of climate endangering industries.

Fred Morse

Montgomery County

It is needed, realistic, and will help every citizen in the state.

Joan Slettvet

Anne Arundel County

We owe it to our children and grandchildren to finally take action!

Rush Kester

Prince George's County

Maryland can do its part in limiting carbon emissions, such as promoting green energy, more bike lanes & hybrid public transportation.

Barbara Cavanagh

Baltimore County

MD must do all that it can to address climate change and set this as the highest priority in this legislative session.

Sherri Fisher
Baltimore City

The time is now to act swiftly. As a parent the work on climate change is a critical issue for my family to ensure my and every child a bright future. In a state on the front lines of climate change we risk not only the critical devastation of our lands but jobs and livelihoods. We live in Baltimore and the health inequities as a result of poverty are in many ways a result of and made worse through the climate crisis. It is important to support our communities through these changes and this bill does that. Protect our children's future in support of this bill.

Ron Witko
Queen Anne's County

We need to protect our environment and at the same time this will help spur new jobs.

Faith Kirk
Montgomery County

We are running out of time to successfully take the necessary action to save our community and state from the devastating results of climate change.

Nick Kyriacou
Anne Arundel County

Climate change is real. Maryland must take the next step to build a green economy starting in 2021 with SB 414 and HB 583. Requiring the State to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 60% from 2006 levels by 2030; requiring the State to achieve net-zero statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 2045.

Christine Pannell
Baltimore County

For the past 100 years we've been living on this planet with the attitude that our actions do not have consequences -- that plastics, fossil fuels, emissions, etc. do not impact us and thus don't warrant our time and attention. It is critical, and past due, that we take a hard look at the consequences of our actions and support legislation and policies that begin to end (and ultimately reverse) the immense harm we've done to this planet before it's too late for future generations. I support climate action because I want my nieces and nephews to inherit a planet that isn't on the brink of extinction, past the point of no return.

Mary Finelli
Montgomery County

The climate crisis is the gravest problem for life on Earth. It warrants paramount attention with swift and highly effective action.

Christine Latham
Prince George's County

We have a responsibility to provide a safe living environment for our children. What we do or don't do now, determines their right to a clean air future. Please do the right thing.

Eugenie Jenkins and Brian Holmes
Baltimore City

Climate change and environmental protection are the single most important issues that the world has ever faced. We either do something immediate and drastic or we let our future generations perish. Build the green economy ASAP.

Maj-Britt Dohile
Montgomery County

The climate crisis is the most important problem we face today. It's an existential threat for our children and grandchildren. We need to act!

Krista Adams
Montgomery County

I think Maryland has a ways to go to protect not only our state resources but also in adding our voices loud and clear to the global conversation. We are guardians of the Chesapeake, a true natural wonder! Let's hold oil companies accountable and use their planet polluting profits to change our legacy and give the next generation the education they need to meet this global challenge.

Arlene Waldo
Baltimore County

We don't have much time to correct this man made problem. I would like to see my great nieces and nephews have a chance at life.

Patrick Corvington
Montgomery County

We need bold solutions and MD should be a national leader.

Ann Andrex
Frederick County

I want my granddaughters, and their grandchildren, to have a future with livable air, water, and soil.

Edward Larkey
Baltimore City

Much of the Eastern Shore and other coastal areas of the state are affected by rising sea levels caused by global warming, endangering people and wildlife, cities and rural areas. It is also greatly affected by air pollution and environmental degradation through the environmental damage caused by pollution of rivers and other waterways, especially the fishing and poultry industries.

Michael Italiano
Montgomery County

There is no greater issue facing mankind. If we do not act on climate and the planet becomes inhabitable, all other issues of the day are moot.

Liliane Floge
Montgomery County

Everyone and every locality must take whatever actions they can starting now to slow global warming. In my private life my family and I do all we can and encourage others to do so, but those individual actions are not enough. Actions must quickly and strongly be taken now.

Deanna Okrent
Montgomery County

Clean air is critical to raising healthy children, and preserving the future of our state and our country.

Richenda Van Leeuwen
Montgomery County

We need an 'all of the above' approach to climate action. We need to retire our remaining coal-fired generation and continue investing in developing lower carbon alternatives - including accelerating the potential development of Maryland's excellent offshore wind resources - while pursuing much more energy efficient policies for our commercial and residential buildings. We also need to plant more native trees - not only because they have some impact in terms of carbon capture and sequestration, but also because they help filter out particulates and are the lungs of a community. More urban tree canopy, more green space is psychologically good and lower pollution levels equate to fewer children suffering health effects from high pollution such as reduced lung capacity. This is an investment not only for the climate but also for our children and grandchildren in Maryland.