



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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Environment and Transportation Committee Members

FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)

DATE: February 18, 2021

RE: HB33 Climate Crisis and Education Act

The MLLC supports HB33 Climate Crisis and Education Act.

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB33.

The science is clear. Human emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are major contributors to climate change. Climate change is causing significant alterations to our environment, including polluted air and water, and a considerable increase of powerful natural disasters. There is no time to waste to accomplish cleaner air, sustainable living environments, and alternative energy sources to avoid fossil fuel dependency.

The climate crisis affects everyone; however, it disproportionately impacts people of color and low-income families that daily face the detrimental health effects. Black and Latino Americans are disproportionately [exposed](#) to air pollution, which is a leading trigger for asthma. Asthma is most chronically found in Black and Latino [children](#). Maryland can remedy these environmental factors that are harming our children *and* fund their education.

As we take efforts to lower levels of greenhouse emissions in the upcoming years, to achieve real change it is critical to keep our environment and future generations in mind. Our state can prevent further deterioration of our planet and a method to fund our children's education. Investing in our children will be for nothing if we do not achieve a sustainable environment.

HB33 creates the Climate Crisis Initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the next 10 years and reach net-negative emissions by 2045. The bill establishes pollution fees on fossil fuels, electricity, and new vehicle sales and registrations. The

revenue from fees will be used to fund for the Kirwan Commission Fund, the Household and Employer Benefit Fund, and the Climate Crisis Infrastructure Fund. These funds invest in our children's future and aid businesses transitioning to a clean energy state economy. It is time to implement an action plan that will address environmental issues, educational needs, and health disparities, while also producing a brighter future for Maryland.

The MLLC supports this bill and urges a favorable report on HB33.