

(2/16/21)

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

There is a lot of coverage about how dire the climate crisis is, but there is far less coverage about potential solutions. The Climate Crisis and Education Act is a very promising potential solution. The CCEA would put a price on carbon emissions, internalizing the cost and shifting the financial burden of mitigating climate change from the taxpayer and onto the emitter.

Thus far, most proposed policy solutions to climate change involve significant investment from some government funding source, and emitting companies are required to meet some agreed upon standard in order to try and reduce emissions. This implies that it is the government's responsibility to determine how to reduce emissions from private industries, and it is the responsibility of the emitters themselves just to do just what the government requires of them. This incentive system is fundamentally flawed, and has done little to combat the runaway climate change the scientific community has warned us about. The financial responsibility for emissions should clearly lie with the emitters, not the taxpayer-funded government. The most direct way to correct this incentive problem is to make emitters directly financially responsible for their own emissions by putting a price on carbon.

This carbon pricing step should have been taken a generation ago, but we all have an ethical responsibility to take it now and to protect the stability of our climate system for those who plan to stay on this planet permanently, including myself and my future children. For these reasons and more, I Zac Pinard of Climate XChange Maryland, urge a FAVORABLE REPORT on HB0033.

Respectfully submitted,

Zac Pinard
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Cc: Members of the Budget and Finance Committee