



TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE

HB 33 - Climate Crisis Education Act of 2021

POSITION: Support

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The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influence public policy through education and advocacy. Action on climate change is based on the League's position to support comprehensive legislation to control climate change, and support for predominant reliance on renewable resources. **Maryland's risk is particularly high due to extensive coastal areas and frequent violent storms, and in line with the latest science, must reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 60% relative to 2006 levels by 2030 and to net-zero emissions by 2045.**

Senator Kramer and Delegate Fraser–Hidalgo have consequently co-sponsored a bill to implement these reductions. It simultaneously provides a funding source for accomplishing these goals, as well as for supporting education and boosting our economy. The bill will --

- Establish a gradually rising fee on fossil fuels entering or passing through Maryland to serve as an incentive to energy companies to begin planning and investing now for conversion to renewable energy.
- Direct these revenues to three funds that benefit the public: (1) a fund to supply the infrastructure necessary for the transition to clean energy; (2) a fund designed to mitigate past and future negative effects on low-income households and exposed businesses during the transition; (3) the Kirwan Education Fund, designed to improve educational standards and outcomes throughout the State.

The LWVMD with its 1,500+ members across our State supports a favorable report on HB 33 and believes it will be beneficial to the public, to businesses, to the economy as well as to the environment.