

2/16/2021

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

Dear Delegates,

My name is John McKusick. I worked at the Community College of Baltimore County and Towson University as an educational counselor and academic administrator for thirty years before retiring in 2017. Since retiring, I am spending a lot of time as a volunteer advocating for programs that support educational equity, respond to the effects of climate disruption, and promote racial justice. I am writing to ask for your support of the Climate Crisis and Education Act (HB 0033), a bill that will address an urgent need to reduce and eventually eliminate carbon dioxide emissions while protecting consumers, workers, and communities that are on the front line of climate disruption.

HB 0033 will put us on a pathway to reduce CO2 emissions by 60% in 2030 and to reach green house gas net zero by 2045. It will employ a market-based solution to incentivize fossil fuel companies to reduce green house gas emissions by requiring fossil fuel fees that will increase annually. The increased cost will be borne by the companies and will not be allowed to be passed on from company to consumer.

As an educator, I am particularly pleased that a substantial amount of the proceeds will go to support the recently passed Kirwan plan for public education. And as an environmentalist by avocation, I delighted that the state would become a leader in the transition from a fossil fuel based economy to a green and renewable energy economy.

This is a win/win/win/win bill for the climate/environment, for consumers, for workers, and for low income communities. Thank you for considering my point of view. And thank you for your service to Maryland.

Respectfully submitted,

John McKusick

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**Member of the Sierra Club of Maryland and the Homewood Friends Meeting
(Quakers)**

Cc: Members of the Budget and Finance Committee