

February 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

I am writing to ask your support of CCEA, the Climate Crisis and Education Act (SB 0076; HB 0033). This practical, market drive, common sense legislation is long overdue and comes at a time when the issues it will address, especially the climate crisis, can no longer be dismissed: Enough is enough. Income derived through fossil fuel polluters and transportation fuel fees established in the legislation will be reinvested in Maryland's vulnerable populations, in education for Maryland through the Kirwan Commission recommendations, and in infrastructure of Maryland.

As I hope you know, this legislation was introduced in 2020 with numerous sponsors; and this year, HB 0033 and SB 0076 have even more support from a larger more diverse group of sponsors. The CCEA addresses the debilitating, unjust degradation of our climate with its resulting serious negative consequences to communities, especially in areas such as ours in southern Prince George's and northern Charles Counties. The time is now to act and pass this legislation which will make Maryland a leader, a precedent setter for other states to enact this kind of practical legislation that emphasizes long overdue environmental justice for black and brown populations.

For these reasons and more, I urge a FAVORABLE REPORT on HB 33.

Respectfully submitted,

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Cc: Members of the Economic Matters Committee