

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

We are rapidly changing our climate after a century of ever-increasing emissions of CO2 and other greenhouse gases into our atmosphere. We now know with certainty this will lead to world-wide catastrophe in the near future if we do not take immediate and drastic action to LOWER the concentration of GHG in the air. The most efficient first step toward this goal is to STOP EMITTING.

As a resident of the eastern shore, less than 10 feet above high tide, I feel the threat more and more acutely.

The Climate Crisis and Education Act (CCEA) provides the impactful solutions that are needed now to help us wean ourselves off our addiction to fossil fuel. It will generate billions of dollars for investment in clean energy infrastructure and our children's education, while providing benefits to Maryland's small businesses and most vulnerable populations.

CCEA gradually escalates the price of carbon pollution by establishing a non-transportation fuel fee starting at \$15/ton of CO2 per year, increasing \$5 /ton per year to a cap of \$60/ton. Transportation fuel fee starts at \$10/ton of CO2 per year, increases \$3/ton per year and is capped at \$37/ton. Gradually escalating the price of carbon pollution offers energy companies regulatory certainty for future planning. This will eventually make renewable sources of energy more economic and incentivize energy companies to increase renewables in their portfolio. These fees contribute to the Climate Crisis and Infrastructure Fund to achieve fossil fuel emissions mitigation, build resilient infrastructure and provide a just transition to Maryland's new clean energy economy.

CCEA also will contribute to the Household and Employer Benefit Fund to protect low-income households and energy-intensive trade-exposed businesses from financial harm. It also helps fossil fuel-dependent workers and communities make the transition to a clean energy economy.

CCEA will deliver hundreds of millions of dollars each year to help fund the Kirwan Education Fund.

We must make bold moves now to confront sea-level rise, soil erosion, saltwater intrusion and the decline in commercial and private property values on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

For these reasons and more, I, Peter Yungbluth, urge a FAVORABLE REPORT on HB0033.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Yungbluth
member Citizens Climate Lobby
410-819-3793