

February 16, 2021

BILL: HB 33
TITLE: Climate Crisis and Education Act
POSITION: SUPPORT
HEARING DATE: 2/18/2021
COMMITTEE: Economic Matters
SPONSOR: Del. David Fraser-Hidalgo

I am a resident in Leg. District 15 and I would like to be on record that I support HB 33, The Climate Crisis and Education Act as sponsored by Del. David Fraser-Hidalgo. We are living in a critical time where severe weather, caused by climate change has pounded Maryland shores and coastal communities and its infrastructure, and has resulted in adversely affecting the most vulnerable people who can least afford to ward off the devastating effects of climate change. This bill would set in motion a mitigation measure known as carbon pricing which charges the fossil fuel producer at point of sale, and these revenues compensate for the external effects of damage caused by climate change.

Carbon pricing is the most efficient and cost-effective way to reduce GHG emission while incentivizing green energy. By putting an increasing fee on fossil fuels at point of entry in Md, the bill market-based approach, incentivizes the reduction in fossil fuel CO2 emissions. Further, the bill will set Maryland on path to achieving net zero emissions by 2045. It sets a statewide GHG reduction goals of 60 % by 2030 and 100% by 2045 consistent with the recommendation of the IPCC.

Finally, the bill market-based solution will generate billions of dollars to help fund critical programs. The bill establishes separate funds for education to fund the Kirwan Initiative, resilient infrastructure, and most importantly, household and employee benefits to offset and defray increasing costs of moving toward a clean energy economy to help vulnerable communities transition to a clean energy economy in a just manner.

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

Respectfully submitted,
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