



February 16, 2021

**Written Testimony for [HB33](#)- Environment – Climate Crisis and Education Act (CCEA)
Position: Favorable**

Submitted by Denisse Guitarra

Maryland Conservation Advocate, Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS)

Dear House Economic Matters & Environment and Transportations Committees,

For 124 years, Audubon Naturalist Society has inspired people to enjoy, learn about and protect nature. We thank the Economic Matters & Environment and Transportations Committees for the opportunity to provide testimony for HB33 - Environment – Climate Crisis and Education Act (CCEA).

As we navigate today's public health, social, and economic crises, it is critical to support the passage of HB33. CCEA seeks to help all Marylanders transition equitably and sustainably into a green economy by requiring fossil fuel producers to pay for emissions and use the funds collected to invest in green infrastructure and education. Under CCEA, the fossil fuel money will be contributed to three separate funds: 1) a green infrastructure fund, 2) a \$350 million per year education fund for the Kirwan Initiative, and 3) a fund to invest hundreds of millions in supporting Maryland's most vulnerable populations to transition to clean renewable energy. CCEA is a holistic, equitable and climate focused bill that Maryland needs to cut back our greenhouse gas emission to 60% by 2030 and achieve net zero carbon by 2045 while continuing to strengthen our economy and support those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

ANS is supportive of CCEA/HB33 due to our long history of educating young children throughout the Washington, DC region. ANS Educators via GreenKids, an environmental education program we provide for free to Maryland public schools, teach children of all ages about the importance of protecting our environment, especially in this time of climate change. ANS also has our own Nature Preschool on site at our Woodend Sanctuary and we know the importance of early childhood education, a strong area of emphasis in the Kirwan Initiative.

ANS supports HB33 for its climate change, environmental justice, and education impacts and benefits. On behalf of ANS and our 28,000 members and supporters, we recommend that the Economic Matters & Environment and Transportations Committees support the passage of HB33.

Sincerely,
Denisse Guitarra
Maryland Conservation Advocate
Audubon Naturalist Society

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