

## **SB 538 - Public Service Commission - Application for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity - Preservation of Environmental Quality and the Climate**

**Corey Johns**

### **Support**

Members of the Finance Committee:

My name is Corey Johns and I live in District 6, in Eastern Baltimore County. I am testifying in support of SB 538.

Maryland is a beautiful state. With mountains in the West, oceans and beaches in the east and a true natural treasure, the Chesapeake Bay, in the middle, Maryland is an amazing place when it comes to our environment. Maryland is also home to one of the most geologically rare ecosystems in the world, the Serpentine Barrens, filled with flora and fauna that can only be found here in Maryland.

It only makes sense to me that Maryland really should be a nation-wide leader in environmental preservation, quality and in combating climate change. That is why it does not make sense to me that right now, today, the Public Service Commission does not consider climate impacts when reviewing applications for new electricity generating facilities, and when it approves the sites for the new facilities.

While I'm not entirely supportive of fracking gas power plants and much prefer renewable energy sources such as wind and solar, these plants are much better than coal-fire plants, but we still have to make sure they are not unnecessarily hurting the planet simply because there is no consideration of climate impacts.

And as we tackle the climate crisis that science overwhelmingly says is happening right now, the government needs to lead the fight against it. It is very difficult to get people to buy in and be more conscious of their environmental impact when the government is not even considering environmental impact. This is an opportunity to help the government lead the charge.

Please, support SB 538.

*Corey Johns*

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