

Committee: House Environment & Transportation

**Legislation: HB 710 Equitable & Inclusive Transit Oriented Development
Act**

Organization: Environmental Justice Ministry Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

Position: Favorable

Hearing: February 17, 202

Dear Committee Chair and Committee Members,

The Environmental Justice Ministry strongly supports the Maryland Equitable Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Enhancement Act (HB 0710/SB 0516) that will create a \$10 million revolving loan fund to advance TOD designated projects at the 17 state oriented TOC locations. It expands the opportunity zone tax credit to cover jobs created in those TOC designated site. The Act further alters the More Jobs for Marylanders Program to allow certain businesses to qualify for certain Program benefits.

As a people of faith, we hold that justice and equity are key principles in creating job and transportation opportunities. Frequently, low and middle income earners are denied this equity because of a lack of fair, affordable and convenient transportation.

Please vote favorably on this important legislation.

Nanci Wilkinson

Environmental Justice Ministry Team

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church