



**Committee: Budget & Tax**

**Testimony on: SB516 - Equitable & Inclusive Transit-Oriented Development Enhancement Act**

**Organization: Climate Justice Wing of the Maryland Legislative Coalition**

**Submitting: Diana Younts, Co-Chair**

**Position: Favorable**

**Hearing Date: February 16, 2022**

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of SB516. The Maryland Legislative Coalition (MLC) Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of over 50 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on SB516.

SB516 is designed to expand the More Jobs for Maryland program by creating greater opportunity than exists today for transit-oriented development (TOD) near designated rail, bus and subway stations. By doing so, TOD reduces reliance on cars, that is a critical need of low and moderate income households, the elderly, and the disabled. At the same time it increases transit ridership, reduces congestion thus decreasing polluting and unhealthy tailpipe emissions from cars, promotes community safety, convenience, and economic development, augments land use and environmental conservation efforts, and enhances accessibility to jobs, housing, and other destinations for all residents.

Although Maryland already has a TOD program, it has far created only 17 state-designated TOD sites throughout Maryland eligible to receive state support. This is in part because it is often more expensive to develop such areas due to a combination of higher land costs, legacy developments and environmental hazards, and the need for supportive infrastructure to complement the transit station including sidewalk networks, station parking, and other barriers.

**What does this bill do?**

The **Equitable and Inclusive TOD Act** will:

1. Expand the More Jobs for Marylanders program, which currently provides tax credits and benefits to businesses who create new jobs in opportunity zones, to provide the same tax credits and benefits to businesses who create new jobs in TOD designated sites.
2. Create a \$10 million Transit-Oriented Development Capital Grant and Revolving Loan

Fund, to be replenished each year that the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) will administer to create competitive grant and loan programs that provide financial assistance to local jurisdictions for design, planning, construction, or gap funding for public or private development within a state-designated TOD site.

3. Require the Secretary to report to the General Assembly annually, on or before November 30, on efforts to increase TOD throughout the state, including an analysis of the demographic and socio-economic indicators for each TOD site, development activity occurring in the TOD since the last report, and transit stations utilizations rates. MDOT shall review the findings from this report when making changes to the scoring standards for the TOD Capital Grant and Revolving Loan Fund.

We therefore request a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

**MLC Climate Justice Wing:**

Assateague Coastal Trust	Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
Maryland Legislative Coalition	Audubon Naturalist Society
MD Campaign for Environmental Human Rights	Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church
Chesapeake Climate Action Network	Environmental Justice Ministry
WISE	Coalition For Smarter Growth
Frack Free Frostburg	DoTheMostGood Montgomery County
Mountain Maryland Movement	MCPS Clean Energy Campaign
Clean Water Action	MoCo DCC
Howard County Indivisible	Potomac Conservancy
Howard County Sierra Club	Casa de Maryland
Columbia Association Climate Change and Sustainability Advisory Committee	Nuclear Information & Resource Service
HoCo Climate Action	Clean Air Prince Georges
CHEER	Laurel Resist
Climate XChange - Maryland	Greenbelt Climate Action Network
Mid-Atlantic Field Representative/	Maryland League of Conservation Voters
National Parks Conservation Association	Unitarian Universalist Legislative
350 Montgomery County	Ministry of Maryland
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization	Concerned Citizens Against Industrial CAFOs
The Climate Mobilization Montgomery County	Wicomico NAACP
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions	Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
Montgomery Countryside Alliance	Chispa MD
	Climate Law & Policy Project
	Maryland Poor People's Campaign

Labor Network for Sustainability  
The Nature Conservancy  
Clean Air Prince Georges  
350 Baltimore  
Maryland Environmental Health Network  
Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis  
Talbot Rising  
Adat Shalom Climate Action  
Chesapeake Earth Holders  
Climate Parents of Prince Georges  
Echotopia  
Maryland NAACP State Conference,  
Environmental Justice Committee