

## TESTIMONY FOR HB0310

### Environment and Energy - Investment in Communities With Low- to Moderate-Income Households

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Rosenberg  
Committee: Environment and Transportation  
Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition  
Person Submitting: Jared Schablein, Chair  
Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0310 on behalf of the Lower Shore Progressive Caucus. The Caucus is a political and activist organization on the Eastern Shore, unaffiliated with any political party, committed to empowering working people by building a Progressive movement on the Lower Eastern Shore.

We are appreciative to Delegate Rosenberg for introducing the General Assembly to this ground-breaking bill. The disparities between wealthy and low- to moderate-income communities are an issue that is regularly discussed. When we discuss these differences, we assume that they will always exist. While we would prefer to see greater equity, the wealthy communities' residents have the finest lawyers and lobbyists working on their behalf to make sure their needs are met.

This legislation clearly directs the Department of the Environment to develop the regulations required to ensure that at least 40% of its funding is distributed to low- to moderate-income community projects by December 2023. The bill also requires that the Department of the Environment establish listening opportunities with the locals of those communities in order to determine what initiatives will benefit them most before developing the regulations and procedures. Maryland is an excellent state due to its forward-thinking, community-focused planning and spending.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.