



Committee: Environment and Transportation
Testimony on: HB0310 - Environment and Energy - Investment in Communities With Low- to Moderate-Income Households
Organization: Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing
Submitting: Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 15, 2022

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of HB310. The Maryland Legislative Coalition (MLC) Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of over 50 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on HB310.

HB310 requires that by December 1, 2023, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) must develop policies and recommendations to require at least 40% of overall spending to benefit communities with low- to moderate-income (LMI) households. The bill directs spending for the following on programs, projects, and investments meet the 40% LMI goal: (1) green infrastructure; (2) climate change; (3) clean energy and energy efficiency; (4) clean transportation; (5) affordable and sustainable housing; (6) training and workforce development related to specified topics; (7) remediation and reduction of legacy pollution; and (8) critical clean water and waste infrastructure.

The MLC Climate Justice Wing supports policies reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while also benefitting overburdened and underserved communities. HB310 will achieve both goals by directing more of the State's funding (i.e., 40%) for climate change, clean energy, energy efficiency, clean transportation, sustainable housing, clean water and waste management infrastructure, and the remediation of legacy pollution to the low- and moderate-income communities that need investment the most.

In addition, the bill wisely directs MDE to conduct public information-gathering sessions in different parts of the State to solicit input from communities with LMI households, and to work with the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) to develop specific recommendations to achieve the goals of HB310.

HB310 will rebalance critical investment in LMI communities to enable them to prepare for climate change and take advantage of the clean energy transition. For these reasons, we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report for HB310 in committee.