



Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition
Letter of Support for MD HB0842
Environmental Justice - Investment in Infrastructure Construction Projects
March 04, 2024

Dear Hon. Deni Taveras, Delegate State of Maryland

I am writing to express the strong support of the Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC) for the Justice40 bill that you're introducing in the state of Maryland. This vital legislation, designed to ensure that federal infrastructure investments prioritize disadvantaged communities in Maryland, aligns seamlessly with our mission to promote sustainable transportation, environmental justice, and equitable access to cleaner and more sustainable transportation solutions.

At GWRCCC, we firmly believe that access to clean and efficient transportation is not only an environmental imperative but also a matter of social and economic justice. The Justice40 bill, with its commitment to directing a minimum of 40% of funds to projects benefiting overburdened and underserved communities and 10% to projects assisting low-income households, represents a significant step towards addressing the environmental and economic disparities that persist in our communities.

Furthermore, the establishment of an Advisory Committee to identify needs and recommend impactful projects demonstrates a commitment to informed decision-making and community engagement. We appreciate the bill's focus on maximizing economic, climate, and equity outcomes through labor standards, apprenticeships, and input from affected communities. These provisions reflect a holistic approach to infrastructure investments that not only modernize our infrastructure but also create opportunities for economic advancement and environmental resilience.

At a time when infrastructure investments are urgently needed to address our nation's aging infrastructure and meet the challenges of climate change, the Justice40 bill provides essential guidance to distribute funds equitably and make meaningful changes in areas that need it most. We believe that this legislation has the potential to serve as a model for inclusive and equitable infrastructure development across the nation.

GWRCCC is fully committed to supporting and advocating for the passage of the Justice40 bill. We commend your dedication to addressing environmental justice and equity through infrastructure investments, and we stand ready to collaborate and contribute to the realization of this important legislation.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us for any additional information or assistance you may require. Thank you for your tireless efforts to advance this critical legislation, and we look forward to a future where federal infrastructure funds truly benefit all communities, particularly those that have been historically underserved. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (202) 671-1580 or antoinehompson@gwrccc.org.

Sincerely,

Antoine M. Thompson

Antoine M. Thompson
CEO/Executive Director