



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE  
OF MARYLAND

The Maryland Episcopal  
Public Policy  
Network

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB0516  
FAVORABLE  
Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act of 2024**

**TO: Delegate Marc Korman, Chair, Delegate Regina T. Boyce, Vice-Chair, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee; Delegate C. T. Wilson, Chair, Delegate Brian M. Crosby, Co-Chair, and members of the Economic Matters Committee;**

**FROM: Rev. Linda K. Boyd, Co-Chair, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network, Maryland, Diocese of Maryland**

**DATE: February 29, 2024:**

The Episcopal Church at large and the Diocese of Maryland in particular has embraced the concept of reparations, a concept not limited to financial considerations but to a leveling of the playing field across a broad spectrum of issues, including achieving equity in quality-of-life issues, such as environmental health.

The National Episcopal Church has repeatedly passed resolutions urging us to work on climate change and to repair the unequal effects of climate change, recently stating:

*Resolved*, That the 79th General Convention **affirm the need for governments, private industry and all people to act to protect the health of all persons from unsafe and unhealthy exposures to air and water pollution, toxic substances, or radiation in their food, water supply, living quarters, and workplaces;** and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Church recommit to the excellent work done by previous General Conventions of The Episcopal Church, specifically resolutions 2000-D005, 2012-B023, 2012-C079, and 2015-C013 and that General Convention **affirm that no community**, especially poor communities, those who live closest to the land in subsistence cultures, and members of marginalized ethnic groups, should **bear a disproportionate risk of environmental pollution or**

**degradation; and advocate for and support policies that protect these populations and the sanctity of communities and the livelihood of future generations** from the disparate impact of climate change and environmental degradation.

Similarly, the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland has strongly supported and endorsed those directives. HB 516 will take important steps to rectify well-entrenched environmental policies that have resulted in unfairly and disproportionately affecting communities of color. Rectifying such inequities is long overdue. It is a critical aspect of living in a healthy environment that is essential for all and not just for wealthy people, who are not persons of color, who almost never have to address these issues.

Our mother is dying. There may still be time to save her, but we must act swiftly and definitively to accomplish that goal. Let's work together on this problem now rather than leaving it to our children and grandchildren—when it may be too late for them..

The Diocese of Maryland requests a favorable report on HB 516.

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4 E UNIVERSITY PARKWAY, BALTIMORE, MD 21218-2437  
TEL: 410-467-1399 / 800-443-1399 FAX: 410-554-6387  
WWW.EPISCOPALMARYLAND.ORG