



Committee: Education, Energy and the Environment
Testimony on: SB0969- Stream and Watershed Restoration - Stream Restoration Contractor Licensing and Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Restoration and Funding (Whole Watershed Act)
Organization: Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing
Submitting: Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: March 5, 2024

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of SB0969. The Maryland Legislative Coalition (MLC) Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of nearly 30 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on SB0969.

In the 2023 report titled [*Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response*](#), the Science and Technical Advisory Committee to the Chesapeake Bay Program recommended restoration investments in smaller geographies as more likely to be responsive in a shorter amount of time and provide multiple ecosystem benefits beyond just water quality. The Whole Watershed Act is an answer to the current “random acts of restoration” approach. It will better focus existing funding on fewer areas by bringing together relevant stakeholders and permitting entities to select projects in five watersheds. The projects selected will be coordinated to produce maximum ecological impact and measurable co-benefits. In addition, the bill will help ensure high standards of design and construction for restoration projects by creating a new licensing board for the people and entities providing stream restoration services.

The Whole Watershed Act is an exciting step forward to improving restoration effectiveness in Maryland and we request a FAVORABLE report on SB0969.

350MoCo
Adat Shalom Climate Action
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry
Chesapeake Earth Holders
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
Climate Parents of Prince George's
Climate Reality Project
ClimateXChange – Rebuild Maryland Coalition
Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists

DoTheMostGood Montgomery County
Echotopia
Elders Climate Action
Fix Maryland Rail
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
Greenbelt Climate Action Network
HoCoClimateAction
IndivisibleHoCoMD
Maryland Legislative Coalition
Mobilize Frederick
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Mountain Maryland Movement
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
Progressive Maryland
Safe & Healthy Playing Fields
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
WISE