



**Committee:** Environment and Transportation  
**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 26, 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  
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