



February 6, 2026

Chair Delegate Ben Barnes and Chair Delegate Marc Korman  
Members of the House Appropriations Committee and the Environment and Transportation  
Committee

Re: Earthjustice **support** of HB 437: Transportation – Major Highway Capacity  
Expansion Projects and Impact Assessments  
(Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2026)

Earthjustice<sup>1</sup> supports the passage of HB 437, Transportation – Major Highway Capacity Expansion Projects and Impact Assessments (Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2026). HB 437 requires 1) the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), as part of the planning and implementation of a major highway capacity expansion project (project) to perform an impact assessment of the project and develop a corresponding multimodal transportation program; 2) the multimodal transportation program shall identify investments in transit, pedestrian and bicycle facilities and other activities to offset the increase in greenhouse gas emissions associated with the project; 3) the multimodal transportation program is required to offset the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the project; and 4) MDOT is required to fund elements of the Multimodal transportation program concurrently with funding for the construction of the project. Enacting HB 437 will reduce harmful pollution, improve access to jobs and essential services, and create affordable and clean transportation choices for Maryland residents. The investments required by HB 437 will result in a transportation infrastructure that works for everyone in Maryland.

Transportation is the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in Maryland, accounting for approximately 36% of the total emissions. The pollution associated with transportation disproportionately impacts communities of color and low-income communities. Tailpipe emissions are filled with carcinogens, particulate matter, and soot. These emissions significantly increase the lifetime risk of cancer, asthma, and heart disease, exacerbating health disparities in vulnerable populations. The Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2026 provides a solution to these problems by ensuring Maryland’s transportation investments prioritize clean and affordable multimodal options that benefit all residents, thus addressing both environmental and equity concerns.

The Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2026 requires MDOT to measure and reduce net greenhouse gas emissions from transportation projects. This requirement will align

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<sup>1</sup> Earthjustice is a non-profit public interest environmental law organization that represents other non-profits free of charge. Earthjustice uses the power of law and the strength of partnerships to advance clean energy, combat climate change, protect people’s health and preserve magnificent places and wildlife.

transportation funding investments with the State’s climate goals. Critically, the Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2026 ensures that overburdened and underserved communities—those most affected by highway projects and pollution associated with those projects—are prioritized for clean transportation investments. The approach set forth in HB 437 will reduce the disproportionate impacts of air pollution and traffic congestion on these communities while creating healthier, more connected neighborhoods.

Finally, Earthjustice thanks Delegates Edelson, Solomon, and Watson for their leadership on this important issue.

Earthjustice urges a favorable report for HB 437.

Thank you in advance for your support. Should you have any questions, please contact me at [smiller@earthjustice.org](mailto:smiller@earthjustice.org).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan Stevens Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style.

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Susan Stevens Miller  
Senior Attorney  
Earthjustice