

**Committee: Rules and Executive Nominations Committee**

**Testimony on: HB866**

**General Assembly - Environmental Impact Statements – Pilot Program**

**Position: Support**

**Hearing Date: February 24, 2020**

As a concerned citizen and environmental activist, I believe it is important to focus clearly on the climate crisis that is encroaching on us, year by year. HB866 proposes having experts examine and spell out -- up front -- the potential environmental impacts of certain bills under consideration. This “roadmap” will better inform discussion and decisions related to such bills.

Further, as HB866 is being proposed as a “pilot”, after a certain a time period members will have the opportunity to evaluate and determine whether these environmental impact statements did indeed aid members in understanding the broader impacts of pending legislation.

Finally, since heat waves, pollution, storm surges and flooding do affect Marylanders, as well as the health of our Bay -- the largest estuary in the US, it is imperative to know more about the environmental effects of legislation \*before\* voting on a bill.

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