

SB674_Sen Elfreth FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Elfreth, Sarah

Position: FAV

SENATOR SARAH ELFRETH
Legislative District 30
Anne Arundel County

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Education, Business and Administration

Chair, Pensions

Senate Chair

Joint Committee on Administrative,
Executive, and Legislative Review

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 24, 2021

Testimony in Favor of SB674

Environment - Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities - Reform

Chairman Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee:

I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 674, legislation that will make necessary reforms to the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities and ensure that the Commission's critical mission is met.

The Senate President's Workgroup on Equity and Inclusion, led by Senate President Pro Temp Griffith, spent the interim exploring, among other topics, policy tools this General Assembly can employ to ensure that environmental justice is at the forefront of our State's policy decisions. A key consideration in how to accomplish this was to reform the current Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities.

I can say it no better than the Workgroup's report: "There is no question that our State's low-income communities and communities of color bear the brunt of environmental hazards in our State. Often, these communities are home to a disproportionate number of polluting facilities, placing residents at higher risk for health problems linked to environmental exposures. Further, these communities often lack sufficient resources and capacity to meaningfully participate in environmental decision-making processes - and in the long-term they are more vulnerable to emerging threats such as coastal flooding."

This legislation will specifically reform the Commission by:

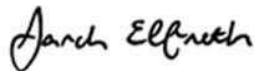
1. Expanding the membership to include at least three members of communities directly impacted by environmental justice issues;
2. Ensuring that the membership of the Commission is reflective of the racial, gender, ethnic, and geographic diversity of the State;
3. Providing new members with an orientation that reviews environmental justice issues in the State and the previous work of the Commission;
4. Allowing the Commission to elect a chair amongst its members -- rather than having the Governor select the chair;

5. Requiring the Commission to meet at least 6 times a year -- and that these meetings have to be in a rural and urban part of the State;
6. Authorizing the Commission to use data sets and mapping tools to review the current impact of policies on environmental justice issues;
7. Authorizing the Commission to create a list of supplemental environmental projects to address environmental justice issues.

Lastly, I am currently working with the Dr. Sacoby Wilson and the League of Conservation Voters on amendments to ensure that this reform incorporates some of the various ideas we have heard from the advocates since the introduction of this legislation. That amendment will be finalized shortly and will be distributed and explained to the Committee members.

When reformed by SB 674, Maryland's Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities has the potential to help put Maryland truly address and unwind the environmental injustices built over centuries. I urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Elfreth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sarah Elfreth

MD Catholic Conference _FAV_SB0674.pdf

Uploaded by: Kraska, MJ

Position: FAV



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

February 24, 2021

SB 674

Environment - Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities - Reform

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Position: Support

The Maryland Catholic Conference (“Conference”) represents the public policy interests of the three Roman Catholic (arch) dioceses serving Maryland: the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington.

Senate Bill 674 alters the membership of the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities; requiring the membership of the Commission to reflect the diversity of the State to the extent practicable; specifying the term of certain members; requiring the Department of the Environment to provide a new member with an orientation reviewing environmental justice issues in the State; altering the manner in which a chair is chosen for the Commission; requiring the Commission to meet at least six times per calendar year.

The Conference supports environmental legislation that recognizes the integral ecosystem in which we live and promotes diversity and inclusion in pursuit of a common good. In his encyclical, *On Care for Our Common Home (Laudato Si’)*, Pope Francis states that “*What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up? This question not only concerns the environment in isolation; the issue cannot be approached piecemeal.*”

Laudato Si’ is not an endorsement of specific public policy proposals; rather, it seeks to illustrate the importance of protecting our common home and issue guidance as to how to listen to all voices in solving this massive global crisis. Pope Francis explains that “[t]o take up these responsibilities and the costs they entail, politicians will inevitably clash with the mindset of short-term gain and results which dominates present-day economics and politics. But if they are courageous, they will attest to their God-given dignity and leave behind a testimony of selfless responsibility.” Senate Bill 674 aims to address some of the needed reforms policies and standards to be set to sustain and achieve a healthy global ecosystem.

The Conference appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 674.

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**Environment - Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities -
Reform**

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February 24, 2021

SB 674

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Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

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The Conference appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 674.

SB 674 - Commission on Environmental Justice and S

Uploaded by: Peterson, Matt

Position: FAV

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ELIZABETH GREEN

1st Vice President

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Past President

HOWARD LIBIT

Executive Director



WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Senate Bill 674 – Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities – Reform

Educations, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 24, 2021

SUPPORT

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Adat Chaim Congregation
American Jewish Committee
Americans for Peace Now
Baltimore Chapter
American Israel Public Affairs Committee
American Red Magen David for Israel
American Zionist Movement
Amit Women
Association of Reform Zionists of America
Baltimore Board of Rabbis
Baltimore Hebrew Congregation
Baltimore Jewish Green and Just Alliance
Baltimore Men's ORT
Baltimore Zionist District
Beth Am Congregation
Beth El Congregation
Beth Israel Congregation
Beth Shalom Congregation of
Howard County
Beth Tfiloh Congregation
B'nai B'rith, Chesapeake Bay Region
B'nai Israel Congregation
B'nai Jacob Shaarei Zion Congregation
Bolton Street Synagogue
Chevra Ahavas Chesed, Inc.
Chevrei Tzedek Congregation
Chizuk Amuno Congregation
Congregation Beit Tikvah
Congregation Beth Shalom of
Carroll County
Congregation Tiferes Yisroel
Federation of Jewish Women's
Organizations of Maryland
Hadassah
Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation
J Street
Jewish Federation of Howard County
Jewish Labor Committee
Jewish War Veterans
Jewish War Veterans, Ladies Auxiliary
Jewish Women International
Jews For Judaism
Moses Montefiore Anshe Emenah
Hebrew Congregation
National Council of Jewish Women
Ner Tamid Congregation
Rabbinical Council of America
Religious Zionists of America
Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation
Shomrei Emenah Congregation
Simon E. Sobeloff Jewish Law Society
Suburban Orthodox Congregation
Temple Beth Shalom
Temple Isaiah
Zionist Organization of America
Baltimore District

Background: Senate Bill 674 (SB674) would reform the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities so that its membership and work reflects the diversity of the state. The bill mandates that new members of the commission receive a full orientation on environmental justice. The commission would also be required to hold at least one meeting each, in an urban and rural part of the state. The commission would be required to implement the use of data and advanced mapping tools in their reporting. Finally, the commission would be required to create a list of potential environmental justice projects based on input by adversely impacted communities. The projects would be undertaken by alleged violators of environmental protections.

Written Comments: Like nearly all aspects of life, the destructive impacts of the climate crisis disproportionately impact communities of color. The Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities is one of the few means the state has for assessing these adverse impacts, and working to remedy them. But the reality is that this commission is not working to meet its full potential and is not reflective of the very communities it was established to protect. The climate crisis is the single greatest existential threat that humanity faces. Our state must be working to ensure that everyone is protected from it.

The Jewish concept of *tikkun olam* teaches us to repair the world in which we live in. Jewish law clearly states that we are not to destroy the public domain. The public domain is just that, it belongs to everyone, regardless of race or background, and any efforts to repair our world must be equitable.

The Baltimore Jewish Council and the The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore are committed to repairing our world. We represent The Pearlstone Center in Reisterstown, MD, a conference center and farm that employs and teaches sustainable practices, many of which are called for in this bill. We encourage this committee to join us in our mission to create a cleaner Maryland that is healthier for everyone. With this in mind, the Baltimore Jewish Council urges a favorable report of SB 674.

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.

BALTIMORE JEWISH COUNCIL

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Member of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs

Baltimore Jewish Council is an agency of The Associated



SB0674 MD NARAL SUPPORT.pdf

Uploaded by: Philip, Diana

Position: FAV



SB0674 – Environment - Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities - Reform

Presented to the Hon. Paul Pinsky and
Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
February 24, 2021 1:00 p.m.

POSITION: SUPPORT

NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland urges Members of the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee to issue **a favorable report on SB0674 – Environment - Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities - Reform** sponsored by Senator Sarah Elfreth.

Our organization is an advocate for reproductive health, rights, and justice. As part of our efforts to protect reproductive freedom for all Marylanders, we work to ensure every individual has the right to decide if, when, and how to form their families, and to parent in good health, in safety, and with dignity. In doing so, we recognize that human health is intimately tied to environmental conditions, and a substantial body of evidence has identified the threats environmental toxicants and extreme heat pose to reproductive health and fetal development. Low-income communities and people of color are [disproportionately impacted](#) by the adverse reproductive health consequences of climate change, which is why these communities should have a prominent voice in the Commission.

Racial minorities are more likely to be exposed to [air pollution](#), live near [toxic sites and landfills](#), [drink contaminated water](#), and have elevated levels of [lead in their blood](#). Research has demonstrated the reproductive health outcomes associated with environmental pollution include infertility, abnormal menstruation and puberty, endometriosis, recurrent pregnancy loss, polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS), fetal death, prenatal growth abnormalities, reduced gestational period, low birth weight,¹ pregnancy-induced hypertension and preeclampsia,² and genital and breast cancers.³ Additionally, people of color in Maryland are more likely to live in areas with [limited green space](#) to mitigate extreme heat. Rising global temperatures is making heat a more serious threat to pregnant persons going forward; exposure to unusually high temperatures can lead to changes in length of gestation, birth weight, stillbirth rates, and neonatal stress.⁴ These health outcomes can cause enduring mental and physical trauma to pregnant persons and the infants they deliver. Substantial research has shown that low birth weight infants may be more at risk for many health problems; some may become sick in the first six days of life or develop infections, others can suffer from long

¹ Rashtian, J. et al. "Water and soil pollution as determinant of water and food quality/contamination and its impact on female fertility." *Reprod Biol Endocrinol* 17, 5 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12958-018-0448-5>

² Wang, A et al. "Environmental influences on reproductive health: the importance of chemical exposures." *Fertility and sterility* vol. 106,4 (2016): 905-29. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fertnstert.2016.07.1076>

³ Bhatt, R.V. "Environmental Influence on Reproductive Health." *International Journal for Gynecology and Obstetrics*, 70: (2000) 69-75. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0020-7292\(00\)00221-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0020-7292(00)00221-6)

⁴ Bekkar B, et al. "Association of Air Pollution and Heat Exposure With Preterm Birth, Low Birth Weight, and Stillbirth in the US: A Systematic Review." *JAMA Netw Open*. (2020); 3(6):e208243. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.8243

term problems such as delayed motor skills and social development or learning disabilities.⁵ Furthermore, increased instances of [natural disasters](#) result in a disruption of reproductive health services which can lead to unplanned pregnancies; conversely, natural disasters can displace families and leave them financially unstable resulting in reduced fertility.⁶ In both cases, individuals lose their reproductive freedom to choose when to become pregnant.

Historical environmental racism and economic inequality are major factors in the disproportionate impact of climate change on communities of color and low-income folks. Dr. Robert Bullard, a founder of the environmental justice movement notes “one of the key components in environmental justice is getting people to the table to speak for themselves.” This bill seeks to bring the people most impacted by environmental injustice issues to the Commission so that their concerns and needs can be met.

For these reasons, NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland **urges a favorable committee report on SB0674 with the proposed amendments by Maryland League of Conservation Voters.** Thank you for your time and consideration.

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Reproductive and Birth Outcomes and the Environment. Retrieved <https://ephtracking.cdc.gov/showRbBirthOutcomeEnv>

⁶ Tobin-Gurley, J., et al. “Displaced single mothers in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina: resource needs and resource acquisition.” *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters*. (2010): 28, no. 2: 170-206

SB0674_EJSC_Commission_MLC_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Plante, Cecilia

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY FOR SB0674
ENVIRONMENT – COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITIES - REFORM

Bill Sponsor: Senator Elfreth

Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0674 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state. We have over 30,000 members across the state.

The Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities was established in 2001. The Commission analyzes and reviews what impact State laws, regulations, and policy have on the equitable treatment and protection of communities threatened by development or environmental pollution, and determines what areas in the State need immediate attention. Moreover, the Commission assesses the adequacy of statutes to ensure environmental justice, and develops criteria to pinpoint which communities need sustaining.

However, since its inception, although the Commission has come up with recommendations, they don't seem to go anywhere. They are presented to the Governor, and put in a report, and there they die. This bill does several things. It changes the composition of the Commission, by adding members appointed by the Senate President and Speaker of the House. It also requires that the makeup of the Commission represent the racial, gender, ethnic and geographical diversity of the state. But, most importantly, it requires that any recommendations made by the Commission be presented to the General Assembly, rather than just presenting to the Governor and being published in a report.

We think this bill will ensure that the Commission's recommendations see the light of day and have a chance of being implemented.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.

SB674_2021_GRID-Alternatives-Mid-Atlantic-Alexandr

Uploaded by: Wyatt, Alexandra

Position: FAV



Maryland General Assembly
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
February 24, 2021

Testimony of Alexandra Wyatt
Policy Director and Legal Counsel
GRID Alternatives

SB 674, Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities - Reform
Sponsors: Senators Elfreth, Griffith, West, Waldstreicher, Jackson,
Smith, Guzzone, Pinsky, Augustine, Beidle, and McCray
Position: FAVORABLE

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 6754 to reform the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities. My name is Alexandra Wyatt and I am Policy Director and Legal Counsel for GRID Alternatives, the nation's largest nonprofit solar installer. Our affiliate GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic (GRID Mid-Atlantic) operates in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, providing solar job training and no-cost solar installations to underserved and low-income customers. GRID Mid-Atlantic offers these comments in support of SB 675 and requests a **favorable** report in committee.

GRID Mid-Atlantic's mission is to build community-powered solutions to advance economic, environmental, and climate justice through renewable energy. We envision a rapid, equitable transition to a world powered by renewable energy that benefits everyone. To achieve that transition, GRID Mid-Atlantic works exclusively with low-income and underserved communities to bring them the many benefits of solar and other clean energy technologies. These benefits include access to hands-on job training opportunities in fulfilling renewable energy careers, as well as lower energy burdens, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and a cleaner, healthier environment. Environmental justice is one of our core policy principles.

Communities that are most impacted by the problem are closest to the solutions. Too often these communities have been excluded from shaping the decisions that affect them. The improvements in this bill would better ensure direct participation from communities affected by environmental injustices. It would also help Commission members be on the same page regarding environmental justice issues and history, and strengthen the data basis for the Commission's recommendations. The bill also strengthens crucial ties between the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities and the Commission on Climate Change.

GRID Mid-Atlantic is very pleased to see Maryland's leaders prioritizing equity and environmental justice as the state looks to increase the ambition of its climate commitments to meet the needs of our moment. We thank you for your consideration of SB 674, and we hope that you will advance it.

SB 674 - CEJSC - Reform.pdf

Uploaded by: Edwards, Donna

Position: FWA



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AFL-CIO

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President

Donna S. Edwards

Secretary-Treasurer

Gerald W. Jackson

SB 674 – Environment – Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities - Reform
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
February 24, 2021

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

Donna S. Edwards
President
Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 674 – Environment – Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities – Reform. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 340,000 union members in the state of Maryland, I offer the following comments in support of SB 91.

The work of the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities is vital as we move forward toward a clean energy future. Ensuring that affected communities are not ignored or given short shrift during a re-ordering of our energy economy is paramount to a successful transition. With SB 674 we have the opportunity to guarantee that the Commission accurately reflects the representation of all stakeholders, by adding the voices of Maryland’s workers. Therefore, I would like to offer the following friendly amendments to SB 674:

On page 3, after line 13:

7. ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A LABOR UNION, AS DESIGNATED BY THE MARYLAND STATE AND DC AFL-CIO

On page 3, after line 23:

5. ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A LABOR UNION, AS DESIGNATED BY THE MARYLAND STATE AND DC AFL-CIO

The input of workers impacted by changing energy sources and those training workers and building the new clean energy is crucial to supporting, strengthening, and growing sustainable communities and to working towards environmental justice for all Marylanders.

We urge a favorable report on SB 674 with the amendments.

SB674 FWA Sign-on letter).pdf

Uploaded by: Harbeson, Kristen

Position: FWA

February 24, 2021

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS – SB674: Environment-Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities-Reform

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

As with many Maryland individuals, community groups, and advocacy organizations, the signatories below were encouraged by the formation of the Senate President’s Advisory Workgroup on Equity and Inclusion. In 2001 the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) was empowered to provide guidance on environmental justice and community-related issues. Twenty years later, it is clear that the Commission’s membership, mandate, and authority are not equal to the monumental task of dismantling the profound disadvantages experienced by frontline and fence-line communities from environmental injustices endured due to urban heat islands, lack of green infrastructure, disproportionate air and pollution from power plants, incinerators, industrial chicken farms, concrete batching, and other polluting industries in both urban and rural areas as well as unsafe worker conditions. SB674 is an important first step in addressing these injustices. We applaud Senators Griffith and Elfreth and the Workgroup on Equity and Inclusion for their dedication in confronting the issue head-on, and thank them for their leadership on this issue.

While we appreciate that addressing racial injustice takes time and is never completely done, it also requires steadfast commitment and we do strongly believe that the proposed legislation does not go far enough to advance and sustain the structural changes needed and where incremental progress is too slow. For that reason, we offer the following amendments to ensure that the CEJSC is empowered to truly address the needs of the most vulnerable Marylanders, whose voices have for so long been unheard. These amendments reflect recommendations that have been made to both Governor Hogan and to the President’s Workgroup, from members of impacted communities and recognized experts in the field of environmental justice:

Page/Line Number	Critical Amendments
Page 3 line 16	(x)1. AT LEAST FOUR REPRESENTATIVES FROM COMMUNITIES IMPACTED BY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUES;

Page 4 line 2	(2) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION SHALL REFLECT THE RACIAL, GENDER, ETHNIC, AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY OF THE STATE, ACCORDING TO THE MOST RECENT CENSUS DATA.
Page 5, line 6	(h)(2) USE DATA SETS AND MAPPING TOOLS IN COORDINATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND HEALTH LAB, TO REVIEW AND ANALYZE THE IMPACT OF CURRENT STATE AND LOCAL LAWS, PERMITS, ACTIONS AND POLICIES ON THE ISSUE OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES INCLUDING CUMULATIVE IMPACTS, EFFECTS, AND EXPOSURE;
Page 5, line 9	(h)(3) Assess the adequacy of State and local government laws to address the issue of environmental justice and sustainable communities INCLUDING FOR COMPLIANCE WITH TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964, PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, OR NATIONAL ORIGIN IN ANY PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY THAT RECEIVES FEDERAL FUNDS OR OTHER FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE;
Page 5, line 11	(h)(4) COORDINATE WITH THE CHILDREN’S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL, THE MARYLAND OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH AND HEALTH DISPARITIES, AND THE COMMISSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE ON RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES;

Page 5 line 19	(h)(6) RECOMMEND LEGISLATIVE POLICY AND BUDGET OPTIONS OPTIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR ADDRESSING ISSUES, CONCERNS OR PROBLEMS RELATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND THE CUMULATIVE EXPOSURE, IMPACTS, OR EFFECTS THAT SURFACE AFTER REVIEWING STATE LAWS AND POLICIES, AND RECEIVING INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICES , INCLUDING PRIORITIZING AREAS OF THE STATE THAT NEED IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.
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Throughout	Replace “Community impacted by environmental justice issues” in all parts of the document to “community disproportionately impacted by environmental and public health hazards”
Page 3, line 4 & line 19	define “Business organization”
Page 3, line 6 & line 21	define “environmental organization”
Page 4, line 24	AT LEAST ONE SHALL BE HELD IN AN URBAN LOCATION OF THE STATE NOT INCLUDING THE OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT

<p>Page 4, line 24</p>	<p>Add new paragraph under subsection (g)(1)(II) that reads:</p> <p>(3) ALL, WHETHER VIRTUAL OR IN-PERSON, SHALL BE REASONABLY ACCESSIBLE TO ALL ATTENDEES, INCLUDING THOSE WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY AND DISABILITIES. (4) ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THE TIME AND LOCATION SHALL BE GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC ON THE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE.</p>
<p>Page 4, line 27</p>	<p>A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION MAY ONLY REPRESENT ONE ENTITY OR GROUP AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION.</p>

Page 5, line 14

Insert new (5)

(5) “CREATE A PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PLAN FOR COLLECTING COMMUNITY MEMBER INPUT, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

(a) AN ONLINE PORTAL TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND PUBLIC LISTENING SESSIONS IN COMMUNITIES

THROUGHOUT THE STATE TO HEAR LOCAL CONCERNS;

(b) A PROTOCOL FOR GIVING THE PUBLIC ADEQUATE NOTICE AND INFORMATION ABOUT PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES; AND

(c) MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT ALL METHODS OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT, WHETHER VIRTUAL OR IN-PERSON, ARE REASONABLY ACCESSIBLE TO UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING THOSE WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY AND DISABILITIES.

Page 5, line 19

(6) RECOMMEND OPTIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR ADDRESSING ISSUES, CONCERNS, OR PROBLEMS RELATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE THAT SURFACE AFTER REVIEWING STATE LAWS AND POLICIES, INCLUDING PRIORITIZING AREAS OF THE STATE THAT NEED IMMEDIATE ATTENTION INCLUDING ESTABLISHING A PROCESS REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT TO CONSULT WITH THE COMMISSION PRIOR TO ISSUING

**OR ADOPTING SIGNIFICANT POLICIES, PLANS,
ACTIONS, DECISIONS, OR REGULATIONS.**

With the inclusion of these amendments, we are confident that Maryland will be able to take the difficult, but essential steps needed to confront the racial injustices related to environmental pollution of its past and present and ensure a brighter future for all who live here.

For these reasons we urge the Committee to adopt these amendments and issue a favorable report on an impactful piece of legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health (CEEJH) Laboratory, University of
Maryland-College Park
Annapolis Green
Assateague Coastal Trust
Audubon Naturalist Society
CATA Immigrant Workers Support Group
Center for Progressive Reform
Charles County Democratic Central Committee Community Outreach Legislation
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Chesapeake Conservancy
Chesapeake Legal Alliance
Clean Air Prince George's
Clean Water Action
Climate Law and Policy Project
Concerned Citizens Against Industrial CAFOs
Daughters Of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul
Defensores de la Cuenca

Downtown Residents Advocacy Network
Food and Water Watch
Howard County Climate Action
Indivisible Howard County
Ji'Aires Workgroup
Maryland Catholics for our Common Home
Maryland Legislative Coalition
MLC Climate Justice Wing
Maryland Pesticide Education Network
Maryland Sierra Club
MOM's Organic Market
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
NAACP Maryland State Conference
NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland
Namati US Environmental Justice Program
National Aquarium
Northeast Catholic Community Peace/Justice Committee
Prince George's County Young Democrats
San Camilo Secular Franciscan Fraternity
Sentinels of Eastern Shore Health
ShoreRivers
St. Camillus Catholic Church's Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation
Strong Future Maryland
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
Washington Area Bicyclist Association
Waterkeepers Chesapeake
Wicomico Environmental Trust
WISE
Shirley Hyman (individual)
Alicia Menendez (individual)
Jeanne McCann (individual)
Janna Parker (individual)
Maya Santhanam (individual)
Miryan Cabrera (individual)
Talia Schwelling (individual)
Vontasha Simms (individual)
Caiwei Zhang (individual)

SB 674_MAA_UNF.pdf

Uploaded by: Evans, Gerard

Position: UNF

CHAIRMAN:
Rob Scrivener
VICE CHAIRMAN
Brian Russell

MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



SECRETARY:
David Slaughter
TREASURER:
Jeff Graf
PRESIDENT:
G. Marshall Klinefelter

February 24th, 2021

Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 674 – UNFAVORABLE – Environment – Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities – Reform

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Committee Members:

The Maryland Asphalt Association is comprised of 18 producer members representing more than 47 production facilities, 21 contractor members, 24 consulting engineer firms and 39 other associate members. We proactively work with regulatory agencies to represent the interests of the asphalt industry both in the writing and interpretation of state and federal regulations that may affect our members. We also advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland's multimodal transportation system.

While we appreciate the Sponsor's intent with this legislation, we must oppose SB 674. This bill is onerous in its nature, presenting significant hurdles in the pursuit of solutions, which are already effectively being sought by the current Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities. At a time when we are facing an economic crisis and coping with various consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, we must focus our resources on the most pressing issues like our crumbling roads and highways, improving public transit options, and addressing economic disparities within Maryland. We believe it is paramount to address the problems at hand before they are inadvertently exacerbated by misguided and burdensome legislation, and it is for these reasons we ask you for an UNFAVORABLE report on Senate Bill 674.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you,

Marshall Klinefelter
President
Maryland Asphalt Association

SB 674_MTBMA_UNF.pdf

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Position: UNF



MTBMA
MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION BUILDERS
AND MATERIALS ASSOCIATION

February 24th, 2021

Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB 674 – UNFAVORABLE – Environment – Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities – Reform

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Committee Members:

The Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association (“MTBMA”) has been and continues to serve as the voice for Maryland’s construction transportation industry since 1932. Our association is comprised of 200 members. MTBMA encourages, develops, and protects the prestige of the transportation construction and materials industry in Maryland by establishing and maintaining respected relationships with federal, state, and local public officials.

While we appreciate the Sponsor’s intent with this legislation, we must oppose SB 674. This bill is onerous in its nature, presenting significant hurdles in the pursuit of solutions, which are already effectively being sought by the current Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities. At a time when we are facing an economic crisis and coping with various consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, we must focus our resources on the most pressing issues like our crumbling roads and highways, improving public transit options, and addressing economic disparities within Maryland. We believe it is paramount to address the problems at hand before they are inadvertently exacerbated by misguided and burdensome legislation, and it is for these reasons we ask you for an UNFAVORABLE report on Senate Bill 674.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you,

Michael Sakata
President and CEO
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association

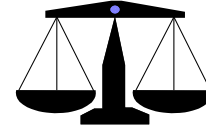
SB674_CEJSC_LOI.pdf

Uploaded by: abbott, tyler

Position: INFO

MARYLAND COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

CAMILLE BURKE, CHAIR



February 24, 2021

The Honorable Paul Pinsky
Chair, Senate Education, Health and Environmental Matters Committee

Re: SB 674 - Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities – Reform

Letter of Information:

The Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) is committed to doing our part to ensure that environmental laws and programs protect the environment as well as the health and well-being of all Marylanders. CEJSC has reviewed Senate Bill 674 and provides this letter of information.

CEJSC is charged with examining EJ issues and sustainable community opportunities that may be associated with public health, safety, economy, government, or other issues relating to EJ and sustainable communities. CEJSC is broadly tasked with reviewing and analyzing Maryland laws and policies pertaining to EJ issues, including state agency programs and permits. CEJSC is also tasked with developing criteria to identify vulnerable communities and prioritizing action strategies toward the identified areas of the state that need immediate attention.

CEJSC is established in statute with the following authority:

- (1) Advise State government agencies on environmental justice and related community issues;
- (2) Review and analyze the impact of current State laws and policies on the issue of environmental justice and sustainable communities;
- (3) Assess the adequacy of State and local government laws to address the issue of environmental justice and sustainable communities;
- (4) Coordinate with the Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council on recommendations related to environmental justice and sustainable communities;
- (5) Develop criteria to assess whether communities in the State may be experiencing environmental justice issues; and
- (6) Recommend options to the Governor for addressing issues, concerns, or problems related to environmental justice that surface after reviewing State laws and policies, including prioritizing areas of the State that need immediate attention.

It is important that the legislature understand that the CEJSC is comprised of volunteer members who are appointed from the general public. It is staffed by two state employees who have the Commission as but a part of their overall duties. CEJSC is concerned that adding detailed analyses and reports is beyond the scope of expertise afforded to the Commission. Any significant additional duties must be designated with adequate funding, staffing and/or contracting assistance so CEJSC can be responsive to any additional duties or responsibilities in a timely manner.

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor these issues. Please feel free to contact me at 443-984-2460 or by e-mail at Camille.Burke@baltimorecity.gov.

Sincerely,

Camille Burke

Camille Burke, Chair of the CEJSC

cc: The Honorable Sarah Elfreth, Senate of Maryland
Ben Grumbles, Secretary of the Maryland Department of the Environment