



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

January 20, 2021

Committee: House Environment & Transportation

Bill: HB 51 – Zoning – Environmental Justice Considerations

Position: Oppose

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League does not oppose the main landfill provisions of HB 51, which would have very little impact on Municipal operations. The League's issue with this legislation arises from the uncodified language contained in Section 2 of the bill.

MML supports the work and role of the Commission of Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) but does not believe that it has the zoning expertise to make the recommendations asked in this bill. Further, MML has no real representation on the Commission. With respect to the individual holding the appointed local government position, it is not fair to ask a Baltimore City Health Official to represent the nuances of municipal zoning on behalf of our 156 other members. What local governments need from the State to address environmental justice concerns is support in identifying at-risk communities, building data-driven tools, and establishing guidance.

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League opposes HB 51 and respectfully requests an unfavorable committee report or to have those provisions removed from the bill.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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