



Committee: Environment & Transportation
Testimony on: SB121 - “Zoning--Environmental Justice Considerations”
Organization: MLC Climate Justice Wing
Person Submitting: Diana Younts, Co-chair
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: April 1, 2021

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

The MLC Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of more than 50 organizations, advocates for climate justice.. We support SB121 which seeks to mitigate the adverse human health consequences associated with the establishment of landfill sites. Landfill sites can contribute to air pollution and contaminate the surrounding groundwater and soil. The adverse human health outcomes associated with living near landfill sites has been widely studied in the U.S. for decades.

Landfills are disproportionately located in low-income and minority neighborhoods and perpetuate the cycle of poverty and systemic racism. We applaud this effort to require an environmental justice analysis before constructing or operating a landfill in an area zoned for residential use; the analyses should examine the area’s demographic profile and the potential adverse environmental, human health, and economic impacts within the two-mile radius of the area, while also considering the cumulative environmental health impacts in relation to circumstances of the past, present, and foreseeable future. The attention to historical environmental injustice is a critical component of this bill.

For these reasons, we strongly urge a favorable report on SB121.