



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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**HB 1207 – Environment – Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities - Reform
House Environment and Transportation Committee
February 26, 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 HB 1207 – 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 HB 1207 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 HB 1207:

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 HB 1207 with the amendments.