



**Committee:** Finance  
**Testimony on:** HB0030 - “Office of People’s Counsel-Alterations (Office of People’s Counsel Environment Reform Act  
**Organization:** MLC Climate Justice Wing  
**Person**  
**Submitting:** Diana Younts, co-chair  
**Position:** Favorable  
**Hearing Date:** March 23, 2021

Dear M. Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of HB0030. MLC’s Climate Justice Wing is a statewide coalition of over 50 grassroots and grasstops organizations focused on getting State level climate justice legislation passed. Each bill for which we advocate is evaluated through an equity lens, with a particular focus on how disadvantaged communities are affected by the bill and the bill’s climate impact.

HB0030 will require the Office of People’s Counsel (OPC) to hire counsel to focus on environmental matters and to retain experts on climate change. Currently, the existing OPC does not usually analyze environmental impacts of legislation.

The Maryland Commission on Climate Change estimates that Maryland is the 4th most vulnerable state in terms of sea-level rise. Marylanders deserve to have an advocate who focuses on environment and climate issues and to be part of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change which is charged with developing action plans to combat the impact of climate change.

For these reasons we urge you to vote favorably for HB0030.

**MLC Climate Justice Wing:**  
Maryland Legislative Coalition  
MD Campaign for Environmental Human Rights  
Chesapeake Climate Action Network

WISE  
Frack Free Frostburg  
Mountain Maryland Movement  
Clean Water Action

Maryland NAACP  
Howard County Indivisible

Columbia Association Climate change and  
sustainability advisory committee  
HoCo Climate Action  
CHEER  
Climate XChange - Maryland  
Mid-Atlantic Field Representative/  
National Parks Conservation Association  
350 Montgomery County  
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization  
The Climate Mobilization Montgomery County  
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for  
Climate Solutions  
Montgomery Countryside Alliance  
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment  
Committee  
Audubon Naturalist Society  
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church  
Environmental Justice Ministry  
Coalition For Smarter Growth  
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County

MCPS Clean Energy Campaign  
Montgomery County DCC  
Potomac Conservancy  
Casa de Maryland  
Nuclear Information & Resource Service  
Clean Air Prince Georges  
Ji'Aire's Workgroup  
Laurel Resist  
Greenbelt Climate Action Network  
Maryland League of Conservation Voters  
Unitarian Universalist Legislative  
Ministry of Maryland  
Concerned Citizens Against Industrial Cafos  
Wicomico NAACP  
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Chispa MD  
Climate Law & Policy Project  
Poor Peoples Campaign  
Labor for Sustainability  
The Nature Conservancy  
Clean Air Prince Georges  
350 Baltimore