



Environment Committee

Committee: Finance

Testimony on: HB0030 - "Office of People's Counsel-Alterations (Office of People's Counsel Environment Reform Act

Organization: Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
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, which will require the Office of People's Counsel (OPC) to hire counsel to focus on environmental matters and to retain experts on climate change.

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. Currently, of the existing Office of People's Counsel (OPC), which although it advocates for ratepayers, does not usually analyze environmental impacts.

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