



MARYLAND LEAGUE  
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

March 3, 2021

**SUPPORT HB1212: Procurement – Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Workers’ Protection Preference**

**Maryland League of Conservation Voters**

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Mme. Chair and Members of the Committee:

Maryland League of Conservation Voters supports HB1212: Procurement – Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Workers’ Protection Preference and we thank Delegate Washington for his leadership on this issue.

In 2019, the Maryland General Assembly passed the Clean Energy Jobs Act, which accelerated the state’s commitment to the clean energy economy by advancing the RPS targets to 50% clean energy by the year 2030. This year, the General Assembly has the opportunity to continue ensuring that Maryland is on the path of national leadership in reducing carbon emissions and strengthening environmental justice and just transition for workers in the fossil fuel economy. Both of these important legislative initiatives lay the groundwork for job growth and economic growth. A successful economy, however, is one where everyone can breathe clean air, and no one is left behind. In order to ensure a successful economy, it is essential that we ensure that job growth benefits historically disadvantaged Marylanders.

HB1212 provides an important vehicle to ensure that businesses, including those in the clean energy economy, are incentivized to support job opportunities for socially and historically disadvantaged workers. The bill provides a 10% preference to bidders who ensure that at least 50% of the workers on the contract are socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. This bill helps ensure that Maryland is a leader in addressing inequities and injustices by lifting up Marylanders who do not have the same ability to compete for jobs as other Marylanders due to social, physical, or mental disadvantages. The state, our economy and our communities will all gain from this bill.

Maryland LCV urges a favorable report on HB1212.