

SHEREE SAMPLE-HUGHES
Legislative District 37A
Dorchester and Wicomico Counties

—
SPEAKER PRO TEM
—

Health and Government
Operations Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 313
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3427 · 301-858-3427
800-492-7122 Ext. 3427
Fax 410-841-3780 · 301-858-3780
Sheree.Sample.Hughes@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**TESTIMONY FOR HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
COMMITTEE**

CHAIR SHANE PENDERGRASS
VICE CHAIR JOSELINE PENA-MELNYK

HOUSE BILL 1244 – STATE PROCURMENT – CONCRETE - PREFERENCE

SUPPORT

March 3, 2021

Good afternoon Chairman Pendergrass and Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk. I am here today to ask for your support for HB 1244 – State Procurement – Concrete – Preference. This bill will make it the preference of the State to use a certain form of low-carbon blended cement, portland limestone cement(PLC), which is more environmentally friendly.

Other than water, concrete is the most-used material in the world, representing approximately 50% of all manmade materials by mass. Concrete is so prevalent because of its versatility, but its production is a very carbon-intensive process. Because of this, even a small reduction in the CO2 used to create it can have a massive impact. By making a preference for PLC, Maryland can expect to see a 10% reduction in CO2 output from concrete plants. We will be following the lead of 32 other states who have accepted the use of this cement, including PA, VA, WV and North Carolina.

Frankly, there are no downsides to the use of PLC. It can be used in almost every instance that the standard portland cement can be. Its production requires no fewer workers, so there are no job losses related to its use. Currently there are two concrete manufactures in the state. One plant, in Union Bridge is already fitted to make the new cement. The other, in Hagerstown, has plans to make a \$250,000 investment to begin production. Both of the surrounding areas will benefit greatly from the reduced pollution, and the new concrete is revenue neutral.

I know that we do not often discuss procurement bills in this committee, but you will find that the passage of this bill will be greatly beneficial to the health and well-being of Marylanders because of the positive environmental impact it will have.

For this reason I am asking for a favorable report on HB 1243. Thank you for your time.