TESTIMONY FOR SB0151
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

Bill Sponsor: Senator Patterson
Committee: Judicial Proceedings
Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition
Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair
Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0151 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state. We have well over 30,000 members across the state.

Our members believe that ALL Marylanders have a right to clean air and clean water. We believe that the state should be making good decisions about sustaining our environment and we believe that this bill is codifying what we expected would already be happening.

However, we know the state is not making good decisions for us. A new pipeline on the Eastern Shore was just approved, bringing in fracked gas from Pennsylvania. Also, a new power plant, the FIFTH in Brandywine within a 13-mile radius of four other plants will soon be built right next to the Elementary School. Is this good decision-making? The answer can only be HELL NO!

That is why we need these rights codified. As a legislator, would you want this fossil fuel infrastructure in your backyard? Probably not. How would you fight it? The answer is, with very little success.

The people of Maryland believe in this and would vote for it if it was on the ballot, especially in light of the reversals of environmental policy that we are seeing from the federal and government and the lack of good environmental stewardship we are seeing at the state level.

We feel that having these ideals codified in the state Constitution would ensure that the state doesn't act in an irresponsible way and continue to build pipelines and other fossil fuel infrastructure or take away environmental protections due to pressure from businesses.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.