

February 15, 2022

**HB566 Schools Construction - Design Documents -
Waste Disposal Infrastructure**

Committee: Appropriations

Position: FAVORABLE

**Submitting: Lee McNair, Co-Leader, Cedar Lane
Environmental Justice Ministry (CLEJM)**

CLEJM supports HB566. This bill requires new school construction designs to include certain regulations for county school boards of education to adopt. These regulations pertain to the inclusion of waste disposal infrastructure in new school construction.

This waste disposal infrastructure is, for several reasons, an excellent addition to our school buildings. Aside from encouraging our children in the development of good disciplined habits that will serve them well for a lifetime (neatness, cleanliness, less wastefulness) we will be teaching the students ways to prevent pest infestation of our building by encouraging them to put trash, recyclables, and food waste in proper containers.

In addition this bill will assist Maryland to meet our GHG emission goals; it will help us prepare for cutting our methane emissions from our landfills, and will

help our economy and jobs goals by encouraging the creation of local compost processing facilities which in turn will support soil reclamation and soil sustainability.

CLEJM believes that all living organisms, including humans, are interconnected through the web of all existence and what harms or hurts one part of the web rebounds to all of the web eventually. Therefore we have a duty to protect all of the web to the best of our ability. What may seem to be a very lowly action such as paying attention to how we dispose of trash and food scraps is actually a powerful opportunity to do good in the world.

Cedar Lane Environmental Justice Ministry supports HB566 and urge a FAVORABLE vote in committee. We thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts with you.