



Good afternoon, I'm Lio Barrera, the Director of Government and Public Affairs at LafargeHolcim.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 806 the "Building Standards and Emissions Reductions" bill. I am providing this testimony on behalf of LafargeHolcim, a local producer of cement and concrete with operations throughout Maryland. Our dedicated manufacturing professionals and engineers help provide building materials that support our entire state, including material used to develop the Purple Line, route 200 Inter-County Connector, and the Woodrow Wilson bridge.

LafargeHolcim is a global leader in developing green cement and concrete technology, as illustrated by our Net-Zero commitment (the first construction materials supplier to do so), and also with the production of OneCem, a lower carbon cement. This material and others reduce our environmental footprint without sacrificing performance or durability.

People often use the terms "cement" and "concrete" interchangeably so I always like to cover the basics. Cement is a binder in concrete and concrete is the finished product which we see in everything from sidewalks, homes, roads, bridges, dams, and skyscrapers. In fact, concrete is the second most used material in the world second only to water.

We all recognize the built environment is a major source of carbon emissions accounting for approximately 40 % of global emissions. A number that is likely to grow over the next two decades as population growth continues, urban migration increases, and more infrastructure is needed to support our communities.

I believe the adoption of this bill can help unlock the future of sustainable construction through the establishment of a low carbon procurement preference for state procurement projects. The state can use its purchasing power to drive innovation and help reduce carbon emissions in Maryland.

On behalf of LafargeHolcim and our 650 employees in Maryland, I respectfully ask that you favorably report this legislation.