



TESTIMONY TO THE ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE

HB 171: Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act

POSITION: Support

By: Nancy Soreng - LWVMD President

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The League of Women Voters of Maryland (LWVMD) supports **House Bill 171**, the Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act, which establishes strong greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets through an equity lens.

House Bill 171 affirms greenhouse gas emissions as a severe threat to the wellbeing of Maryland's environment and its citizens. It is well established that these emissions are substantially contributing to the environmental degradation that has resulted in the global climate crisis. The Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act would enact key reduction targets, funding, and oversight in order to protect the environment and crucial natural resources in the state of Maryland. It is absolutely vital for the environmental health and economic prosperity of Maryland's citizens that the state sets and adheres to these goals.

While climate change affects everyone, low-income and Black and Brown and communities feel the burdens disproportionately. These communities are subject to some of the worst environmental health conditions across the country, and are more likely to have pollution sources (factories, power plants, etc) closeby. **House Bill 171** would assure that emission reductions are achieved in an equitable way, in addition to providing key funding for climate resilience and energy efficiency upgrades for low-income households.

The League and its more than 1,500 members strongly urge a favorable report on **House Bill 171**.