

BALTIMORE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY
People ♦ Planet ♦ Prosperity

February 21, 2022

Delegate and Committee Chair Kumar P. Barve
Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

RE: **Support** for HB596, Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights

Dear Chair Barve and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee,

We are writing in support of HB596, Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights.

The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability is a body appointed by the Mayor to oversee the creation and implementation of the Baltimore Sustainability Plan. The 2019 Baltimore Sustainability Plan addresses a wide range of social, economic and environmental goals for the City, and it does so through an equity lens.

The Baltimore Commission on Sustainability has a strong interest in the success of the Environmental Rights Amendment. The Amendment, which will require the State to protect the right of all Marylanders to a clean and healthy environment, will support the implementation of numerous strategies in the 2019 Plan. For example, climate change is the result of a myriad of policy decisions made without consideration of environmental impacts. The Amendment's adoption by the legislature and then Maryland's voters will help ensure that Maryland makes wise choices. The Amendment is important for racial equity in Baltimore, where communities of color disproportionately suffer the disamenities of environmentally harmful facilities.

We urge the Committee to support HB596.

Sincerely,

Miriam Avins
Mia Blom
Co-chairs, Commission on Sustainability

Cc: Delegate Wanika Fisher