

BALTIMORE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY
People ♦ Planet ♦ Prosperity

February 28, 2022

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

RE: **Support** for HB880, Environment - Impact of Actions on Climate, Labor, and Environmental Justice

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

We are writing in support of HB880, Environment - Impact of Actions on Climate, Labor, and Environmental Justice.

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 HB88, which would require state agencies to assess a proposed action's potential climate impact and effect on underserved and overburdened communities, environmental justice communities, and workers and jobs in Maryland, and would create a quantifiable way to identify and protect overburdened communities, engage in meaningful communication, and prioritize them for investment. This can be important in forwarding many of the strategies in the 2019 Sustainability Plan, and in ensuring that we do not slide backwards. The equity analysis approach is particularly important for Baltimore, which has a large share of underserved and overburdened communities.

We urge the Committee to support HB880.

Sincerely,

Miriam Avins
Mia Blom
Co-chairs, Commission on Sustainability

Cc: Delegate Regina T. Boyce