



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

March 2, 2022

Committee: House Environment & Transportation

Bill: _____ HB 880 – Environment – Impact of Actions of Climate, Labor, and Environmental Justice

Position: Oppose

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League opposes House Bill 880.

This measure prohibits local governments from issuing rules, orders, licenses, approvals, denials, or other relief without a report evaluating the impact of such an action on climate, labor and employment, environmental justice, and overburdened communities. While we agree that these are important considerations and appreciate the sponsor's intent, this bill proposes a vehicle that is unworkable for local governments.

Most local government work consists of the actions specifically mentioned in this bill: issuing rules, orders, licenses, approvals, and denials. Requiring local governments to conduct a formal and substantial evaluation every time action may be taken will drastically slow the work of local governments. The resulting administrative backlog could actually impede resources from reaching our communities.

While we respect the Sponsor's goal, this measure would place too great a burden on local government operations. For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League opposes HB 880 and respectfully requests an unfavorable committee report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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