

**February 21, 2022**

**HB798 - Healthy Air Act**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

**Submitter: Lee McNair, Co-Leader, Cedar Lane Environmental Justice Ministry (CLEJM)**

**CLEJM supports HB798 as it will enable us to know in a factual and scientific way what pollutants might be found in the area around large animal feeding operations, the amounts of those pollutants, and whether or not they pose a health risk.**

**Without such assessments it is extremely difficult to know if a problem exists and, if so, what actions to mitigate any harms are necessary.**

**The residents of Maryland are entitled to protection from harm where the State can and should take action but the state needs data to work from. It is always good for the State to provide such data in a transparent way so that citizens feel that their state governmental bodies are trustworthy so the requirement for publishing the report on the Department of Environment's website is also a worthy goal.**

**CLEJM supports HB 798 and urges a FAVORABLE**

**decision in committee. We thank you for this opportunity to share our thoughts with you.**