

February 28, 2022

Testimony: HB0880 - Environment - Impact of Actions on Climate, Labor, and Environmental Justice

Organization: Cedar Lane Environmental Justice Ministry (CLEJM)

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Position: FAVORABLE

Maryland has reached a point in her history in which most residents understand the need for and support the quest for racial justice, justice for historically and currently overburdened communities, as well as environmental justice. As our state works towards addressing the intersections among these forms of justice, we not only act for our own moral and ethical good but we achieve the very practical purpose of helping ourselves solve problems that impact all who dwell in our state.

- Mobilizing underserved communities in the fight against climate change; global warming; and resource depletion brings a whole new army of supporters to the struggle. Thus we add fresh ideas, more creativity, new energies to finding ways to be both more just and more effective in the mitigation of the climate crisis.**
- Assessing the environmental and justice impact**

of our actions calls for a whole new way of thinking by our governmental bodies. Both climate change and justice issues are complex SYSTEM problems which call for a deeper and wider kind of thinking on the part of everyone including our regulators, our developers, our business communities, as well as our citizens. The beauty of such creative thinking is that it leads to innovation; technological breakthroughs; cooperative efforts among such different interests as business people, biosystem experts, and labor interests.

- **Such “new” thinking is desperately and urgently needed if we are going to be able to provide a livable, sustainable, and successful world to our future citizens and upcoming leaders.**

CLEJM supports HB0880 and looks forward to a FAVORABLE report in committee. Thank you for allowing us this opportunity to share our views with you.