

HB596LTR.pdf

Uploaded by: Barbara Jarvis

Position: FAV

February 21, 2022

To: Delegate Kumar P. Barve
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee

Subj: Testimony on Behalf of HB596

In reference to HB596 (Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights), Roland Park Presbyterian Church supports this bill and urges you to approve its passage to the floor of the House of Delegates. As both a Presbyterian Church (USA) designated Earth Care congregation and a Matthew 25 - Dismantling Structural Racism congregation, our church is deeply committed to the stewardship and quality of our air, water, soil, and food and for ensuring that all people live in healthy environments. It is our strong belief that we must be responsible stewards of the earth and its inhabitants and that we must "do justice" and "love our neighbor as ourselves."

We recognize that our government has allowed unacceptable contamination of the environmental systems that sustain all life and that we have condoned burdening poorer and minority communities with environmental hazards that threaten their health and well-being. There is a well-documented history of environmental racism in past decisions to place polluting industries in economically disadvantaged communities where minorities were historically relegated, exposing them to legalized environmental and health degradation.

Therefore, we believe that the right to a safe and healthy environment must be codified into our state constitution to improve legal protections for all our citizens and residents in regard to the environment in which we live. We ask that you support the amendment and work to ensure that it will be on the Maryland ballot this year.

Sincerely,
The Session of Roland Park Presbyterian Church
Roland Park Presbyterian Church Earth Care Committee
Roland Park Presbyterian Church Racial Justice Task Force

final house testimony of Barry E. Hill.pdf

Uploaded by: barry hill

Position: FAV

Professor Barry E. Hill

Maryland Campaign For Environmental Human Rights

Barryhill09@comcast.net

HB 596: Constitutional Amendment-Environmental Rights

Testimony: Favorable

TESTIMONY OF PROFESSOR BARRY E. HILL
BEFORE THE
HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
(February 22, 2022)

GOOD AFTERNOON CHAIRMAN BARVE, VICE CHAIR STEIN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

MY NAME IS BARRY HILL AND I HAVE BEEN A LONG-TIME RESIDENT OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY AND OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY. CURRENTLY, I AM AN ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF LAW AT VERMONT LAW SCHOOL WHERE I HAVE TAUGHT AN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COURSE FOR 25 YEARS. I HAVE WRITTEN EXTENSIVELY ON THE TOPIC, AND I WAS THE DIRECTOR OF U.S. EPA'S OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FROM 1998-2007.

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS 4 POINTS.

FIRST, THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE SUCH AS SEA-LEVEL RISE, EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS, AND AQUIFER DEPLETION ARE HERE. HOWEVER,

THERE IS NO STATE LAW OR CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION THAT DESIGNATES MARYLAND AS BEING RESPONSIBLE, AS THE TRUSTEE, FOR PROTECTING MARYLAND'S NATURAL RESOURCES FROM THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE. HB 596 DOES JUST THAT.

TO FURTHER ADD, THERE IS NO STATE LAW THAT DESIGNATES WHICH STATE AGENCY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SUING BIG OIL AND GAS COMPANIES FOR THE CLIMATE FRAUD COMMITTED IN MARYLAND. THE MARYLAND ATTORNEY GENERAL DOES NOT HAVE SUCH AUTHORITY. WHEREAS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OFFICES OF, FOR EXAMPLE, RHODE ISLAND, MINNESOTA AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HAVE BROUGHT CLIMATE CHANGE LITIGATION AGAINST SUCH DEFENDANTS. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS IS A GLARING WEAKNESS IN PROTECTING THE PEOPLE OF MARYLAND FROM THE RAVAGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

THROUGH AN AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT (CREATED IN 1987 BY STATUTE), AND THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (ESTABLISHED IN 1969 BY FORMER GOVERNOR MARVIN MANDEL AS PART OF AN EXECUTIVE BRANCH REORGANIZATION) SERVE AS CO-TRUSTEES OF THE STATE'S

NATURAL RESOURCES. THIS ARRANGMENT MAKES ABSOLUTELY NO SENSE IN LIGHT OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES FACING THE PEOPLE OF THIS STATE IN 2022. SB 783 IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BEGIN TO THINK DIFFERENTLY ABOUT ADDRESSING THIS EXISTENTIAL ISSUE.

SECOND, THE GOAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR ALL, AND THE ERA FOR ALL ARE INDEED SYNONYMOUS. HB 596 DECLARES THAT “EVERY PERSON HAS THE FUNDAMENTAL AND INALIENABLE RIGHT TO A HEALTHFUL AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT,” WHICH INCLUDES THE RIGHT TO CLEAN AIR, CLEAN WATER AND CLEAN LAND. THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN SEEKING FOR DECADES SINCE BLACK AND BROWN COMMUNITIES, AND POOR COMMUNITIES HAVE BEEN DISPROPORTIONATELY EXPOSED TO ENVIRONMENTAL HARMS AND RISKS AS COMPARED TO OTHER COMMUNITIES.

IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT INSTANCES OF ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE CONTINUE TO EXIST IN THIS STATE, A RHETORICAL QUESTION MAY BE POSED: “WHO CAN BE AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND THE NOTION THAT EVERY MARYLANDER HAS A RIGHT TO CLEAN AIR, CLEAN WATER, AND CLEAN LAND, AS WELL AS A STABLE CLIMATE? PUT ANOTHER WAY: “WHO CAN BE FOR

ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE, AND THE CURRENT SITUATION OF POLLUTED AIR, CONTAMINATED WATER, AND DIRTY LAND, AND AN UNSTABLE CLIMATE TO CONTINUE UNABATED IN SOME COMMUNITIES IN THIS GREAT STATE?

THIRD, YOU WILL NOTE THAT THE LANGUAGE REGARDING EACH PERSON HAVING A FUNDAMENTAL AND INALIENABLE RIGHT TO A HEALTHFUL ENVIRONMENT IS NOT AT ALL NEW. IN FACT, IT WAS LIFTED VERBATIM FROM SECTION 1-302(D) OF THE MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA) WHICH WAS ENACTED INTO LAW ON MAY 24, 1973. THE LANGUAGE OF HB 596 IS CONSISTENT WITH EXISTING LAW.

WE, THE MARYLAND CAMPAIGN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS, SIMPLY ADDED THE LANGUAGE REGARDING THIS RIGHT TO CLEAN AIR, CLEAN WATER AND CLEAN LAND “MAY NOT BE INFRINGED.”

FOURTH, SB 783 PROVIDES THAT: “THE STATE SHALL...CONSERVE, PROTECT, AND ENHANCE THE STATE’S NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE BENEFIT OF EVERY PERSON, INCLUDING PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS. AGAIN, THIS LANGUAGE WAS LIFTED ALMOST VERBATIM FROM SECTION 1-302 (C) OF MEPA. THE LANGUAGE OF HB 596 IS CONSISTENT WITH EXISTING LAW.

BUT, JUST IN CASE ONE MIGHT ARGUE THAT WE DON'T NEED HB 596 IF THIS LOFTY LANGUAGE OF RIGHTS AND TRUSTEESHIP ARE ALREADY IN MEPA. THAT WOULD BE WRONG. UNFORTUNATELY, MEPA HAS SAT MORIBUND SINCE 1973. NO IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT. MEPA HAS BEEN A NEGLECTED STATUTE: A FORGOTTEN STATUTE.

BUT, MORE IMPORTANTLY, MEPA IS NOT EVEN CLOSE TO BEING AS POWERFUL AS THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, WHICH WOULD BE THE PREEMINENT STATEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY IN THIS STATE.

IN CONCLUSION, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND THE ERA ARE SYNONYMOUS. CLEAN AIR, CLEAN LAND, AND CLEAN WATER, AND A STABLE AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT ARE ENVIRONMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS.

THE MARYLAND CAMPAIGN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS IS IMPLORING THIS HONORABLE COMMITTEE TO EXERCIZE ITS LEADERSHIP SINCE IT IS ESSENTIAL AT THIS TIME TO ADDRESS THE MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES IN ALL COMMUNITIES BY MOVING HB 596 FORWARD IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION OF OUR REQUEST AND
YOUR ATTENTION.**

HB0596_kravitz_MDEHR_fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Beri Kravitz

Position: FAV

Testimony in favor of HB0596
Beri Kravitz
Rockville, MD

Environmental degradation and pollution are profoundly affecting our State, and there are sectors of our community that are under greater stress due to industry, traffic, noise, poor water quality, air pollution, and lack of green spaces. These are typically areas of socio-economic stress as well. This legislation can offer guardrails against discriminatory environmentally damaging practices. Ultimately it can protect all Maryland residents. It is something I support to leave as a legacy to my children and it would be an outstanding legacy for our lawmakers to leave for all Maryland residents and an example of our strong leadership in the region. This legislation, if enacted now while we enjoy broad support for environmental protection, can protect our communities in the future when we possibly have less environment-friendly legislators or other priorities overshadowing our desire to support sustainable practices.

Several other states—namely Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Montana, New York, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island—have adopted similar amendments. New York voters approved its version of the amendment in November 2021, with nearly 69 percent voting in favor.

The Amendment has support in Maryland from a wide set of racial and social equity, environmental, public health, and faith organizations, including the NAACP, League of Women Voters, League of Conservation Voters, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and Maryland Public Health Association.

This amendment would require a balancing of economic and environmental needs - always remembering that economic development cannot take place at the expense of an unreasonable degradation of the Environment. It is a signal to developers and businesses that when they incorporate sustainable practices, they will attract customers who prioritize such practices and they will be welcome in our communities.

HB0596_FAV_SmartOnPesticides.pdf

Uploaded by: Bonnie Raindrop

Position: FAV



A coalition of 110 organizations and businesses protecting Marylanders and the natural systems we depend on from the toxic impacts of pesticides—representing communities, businesses, health care providers, farmers, environmentalists, waterkeepers, interfaith congregants as well as environmental justice, public health and wildlife advocates.

Testimony: HB 596 Maryland Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Human Rights

Position: Favorable

Submitted to: The House Environment and Transportation Committee

Date: February 23, 2022

Chairman Barve, Vice-Chair Stein and Members of the Committee:

We want to thank the General Assembly for its leadership on climate issues in Maryland and we want to specifically thank Delegate Fisher for her work on this bill. We hope that Maryland will continue this leadership by passing HB 596, the Environmental Human Rights Amendment.

Smart on Pesticides Coalition is a grassroots coalition of 110 organizations in Maryland dedicated to protecting the public and the environment from toxic pesticides and promoting healthy alternatives. We advocate for pesticide protections and the use of safer alternatives to protect Marylanders, our environment and ecosystems. The work of protecting our people and our planet from environmental degradation is a team effort; now, more than ever, we need all hands on deck.

That's why enshrining the right to a healthy environment into our state constitution is urgent. It would ensure that our environment is always considered in our policymaking, and it would empower us all to defend this right. In particular, it would elevate the voices of marginalized communities who are disproportionately impacted by environmental issues and who, consequently, suffer worse health impacts because of them.

Smart on Pesticides Coalition's work often focuses on the impacts of pesticides on the health of people, pollinators, the Bay ecosystem, and the role pesticides play in hastening climate change. We know firsthand how difficult it can be to make meaningful change in these areas as quickly as they're needed. The reality is, we are running out of time to act on these issues. This constitutional amendment would make it easier to take the actions so desperately needed.

For too long, our planet has come second to other interests and now we're facing the consequences. By passing this bill, we can make sure that Marylanders, the environment, including our water, air, wildlife, and ecosystems of which our pollinators are an important part of, are better protected.

Thank you for your consideration and we urge a favorable report on HB 596.

Bonnie Raindrop
Coordinator, Smart on Pesticides Coalition

ANHE Testimony HB 0596 Constitutional Amendment -

Uploaded by: Cara Cook

Position: FAV



STEERING COMMITTEE

Azita Amiri, PhD, RN

University of Alabama in Huntsville,
College of Nursing

Laura Anderko, PhD, RN

Georgetown University

Adelita Cantu, PhD, RN

National Assoc of Hispanic Nurses

Lisa Campbell, DNP, RN, APHN-BC

Public Health Nursing Section, American
Public Health Association

Kathy Curtis, LPN

Clean & Healthy NY

Karen G. Duderstadt, PhD, RN

National Assoc of Pediatric Nurse
Practitioners

Tom Engle, RN

Assoc of Public Health Nurses;
Public Health Nursing Section, American
Public Health Association

Robyn Gilden, PhD, RN

University of Maryland School of Nursing

Anne B. Hulick, JD, MSN, RN

Coalition for a Safe and Healthy
Connecticut

Katie Huffling, RN, MS, CNM

American College of Nurse-Midwives

Luz Huntington-Moskos, PhD, RN, CPN

University of Louisville

Jeanne Leffers, PhD, RN

University of Massachusetts

Ruth McDermott-Levy, PhD, RN

Villanova University

Lillian Mood, RN, MPH

Kathryn Murphy, MSN, RN

Naugatuck Valley Community College

Barbara Sattler, RN, DrPH, FAAN

University of San Francisco

Beth Schenk, PhD, MHI, RN

Providence Saint Patrick Hospital

Joyce Stein, RN

National Assoc of Neonatal Nurses

Mary Jane Williams, PhD, RN

Sandy Worthington, MSN, WHNP-BC, CNM

Affiliations added for identification
purposes only

HB 0596 Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights

Hearing Date: 2/23/22, 1pm

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Position: SUPPORT

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

The Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments (ANHE) strongly supports HB 0596 Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights, which would establish the fundamental right for every person to a healthy and sustainable environment and require the State to conserve and protect the environment for people now and in the future.

Access to clean water, air, and land and adequate food are essential to human health. The environments in which people live, work, learn, and play can greatly affect one's ability to live a healthy life. This Amendment would provide constitutionally based protections, solidifying the right to a healthful environment.

Maryland is a leader in advancing environmental safeguards that protect human health. However, even with Maryland's robust existing environmental protection laws, people who live in the state are still experiencing exposures to environmental toxins that affect their health. Communities in the state are still struggling with access to clean drinking water or living next to highly contaminated sites that are harming human health. Air pollution contributes to an increase in asthma attacks in children and premature death. This Amendment makes explicit the State's role as a steward of our environment and the constitutional obligation to protect this right, so that we can protect communities experiencing environmental exposures threatening health.

Environmental pollution does not affect everyone equally. Communities of color and low-income communities bear a disproportionate burden from the pollution caused by polluting facilities, vehicle exhausts, inefficient landfills and incineration emissions, and out-of-date building construction. Current state environmental protections do not consider the cumulative impacts of environmental exposures, nor do they focus on preventing environmental exposures first. These gaps allow harmful pollution and



Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

Bringing Science and Passion to the Environmental Health Movement

environmental degradation to advance unaddressed. As we see in other areas of law, such as civil rights, these gaps can best be addressed by the overarching protections provided by the state constitution's Declaration of Rights. This is critical to achieving environmental justice and health equity in the state and ensuring communities no longer bear the burden of disproportionate impacts to environmental exposures.

We must make it our focus to protect and improve the health of all Marylanders, which should include protecting the right to a healthy environment. The Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments urges you to vote favorably for HB 0596.

About the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

The Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments is the only national nursing organization focused solely on the intersection of health and the environment. The mission of the Alliance is to promote healthy people and healthy environments by educating and leading the nursing profession, advancing research, incorporating evidence-based practice, and influencing policy.

<http://enviRN.org>

2-23 NT LH HB0596 Testimony - February 23, 2022.do

Uploaded by: Casey Hunter

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

HB0596: Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights

POSITION: Support

By: Nancy Soreng - LWVMD President

Date: February 23, 2022

The League of Women Voters of Maryland (LWVMD) supports **House Bill 596**, which would affirm the constitutional right of each Marylander to benefit from a healthy, sustainable environment.

It's no secret that our climate is changing at an alarming rate, impacting not only ecosystems, but the economy and human health. The environment around us has substantial effects on our daily lives, both direct and indirect. It is vital that the state protects the integrity of Maryland's ecosystems so that all residents and visitors can experience the natural beauty of our great state, free from the burdensome externalities that come with environmental degradation.

Environmental Justice is a major concern in the state of Maryland, as low-income and predominantly BIPOC communities in industrial Baltimore or struggling Bay ecosystems feel the brunt of the negative effects. **House Bill 596** would explicitly assert that every Marylander has an equal right to clean air, clean water, and an otherwise healthy environment, regardless of racial or socio-economic status.

Pollution is oftentimes untraceable, and its consequences are cross-boundary and long-lasting. It is imperative that the state assumes responsibility for Maryland's critical natural resources, like the economic hub of the Chesapeake Bay, so that our environment can be preserved and protected for current and future generations. In protecting our natural resources, the health and wellness of Maryland's citizens will be strengthened as well, allowing individuals the opportunity to prosper in all aspects of life. Nothing is more fundamentally important than the right to live in a safe, healthy environment, and **House Bill 596** wholeheartedly embraces this truth.

The League with over 1500+ members urge a favorable report.

HB0596_EHRA_MLC_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0596
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate W. Fisher

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB0596 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state. We have well over 30,000 members across the state.

Our members believe that ALL Marylanders have a right to clean air and clean water. We believe that the state should be making good decisions about sustaining our environment and we believe that this bill is codifying what we expected would already be happening.

However, we know the state is not making good decisions for us. Fossil fuel infrastructure litters our state and CAFOs have expanded across the Eastern Shore. We've invested billions in roads and little in public transit.

That is why we need these rights codified. Municipalities do not have much in the way of recourse when the Board of Public Works or the Public Service Commission approve harmful infrastructure. We need a mechanism to allow localities and municipalities defend their residents against these disastrous decisions.

Polling shows that the people of Maryland believe in this Amendment and would vote for it if it was on the ballot, and our members are in very strong support. Let the people vote on this. Let them reclaim their voice.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.

HB596_MDEHR_Fav_150 Organizations in Support_Lette

Uploaded by: Claire Miller

Position: FAV

February 21, 2022

Dear Chairman Barve, Vice-Chair Stein, and Delegates of the Environment & Transportation Committee,

We, the undersigned coalition of organizations and supporters across Maryland, urge the Maryland General Assembly to pass HB596, the Maryland Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Human Rights.

The amendment would ensure that (1) each person, as a matter of human dignity, has a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment, and (2) the state, as the trustee of Maryland's natural resources, including its air, water, lands, wildlife, and ecosystems, shall protect, conserve, and enhance them for the benefit of current and future generations.

The state of Maryland recognized that "each person has the fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful environment," when it passed the Maryland Environmental Policy Act of 1973. Unfortunately, the Act has not been sufficiently effective.

By elevating the right to a healthful environment to the same level as such fundamental rights as freedoms of the press, religion, and speech, the Amendment will provide constitutionally based protections in addition to those set forth in existing environmental laws and regulations. The Amendment also makes explicit the State's trustee role as a steward of our environment and the constitutional obligation to protect this right.

These principles will strengthen the basis for addressing the cumulative effects of legacy pollution that disproportionately impact many of our minority and low-income communities, and will steer Maryland toward true sustainability. They will provide a solid foundation for improved laws, regulations and programs at all levels of government, and the additional scrutiny that comes from constitutional provisions will serve as a guardrail against the most egregious forms of harmful action, protecting all Marylanders, now and in future generations.

Similar amendments have been constructive and responsible contributors to the environmental and governmental frameworks of other states (Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Montana, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island) that have adopted them. New York State adopted its version of the amendment in November 2021, with 68.9 percent of voters approving it.

We ask that you support and pass HB596, the proposed Maryland Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Human Rights in 2022. Our communities, especially those that are marginalized, our children, our grandchildren, and future generations need us to act now.

Nina Beth Cardin, Director, Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human Rights

Rosa Hance, Chair, Sierra Club Maryland Chapter

1199 SEIU

17 for Peace and Justice

350 Montgomery County
Addressing the System
Alien AME Church, Caroline County
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
AMP Creeks Council
Anacostia Watershed Society
Annapolis Green
Assateague Coastal Trust
Audubon Mid-Atlantic
Audubon Naturalist Society
Backyard Bounty
Baltimore Beyond Plastic
BALTIMORE Blue+Green+Just
Baltimore Board of Rabbis
Baltimore City Climate Parents
Baltimore County Progressive Democrats Club
Baltimore Green Space - A Land Trust for Community Managed Open Space Inc.
Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church
Be the Change
Beth Am Synagogue Environmental Team & Social Action Committee
Black Swamp Creek Land Trust
Blue Water Baltimore
Cedar Lane Environmental Justice Ministry
Center for Progressive Reform
Central Maryland Beekeepers Association
CMEC (Central Maryland Ecumenical Council)
Charles County Medical Society
Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Chesapeake Conservancy
Chesapeake Earth Holders Community of Engaged Buddhism
Chesapeake Legal Alliance
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
Christ Our Anchor Presbyterian Church
Clean Water Action
Climate Law & Policy Project
Climate Parents of Prince George's
Climate XChange
Crab Creek Conservancy, Inc.
Defensores de la Cuenca
DoTheMostGood MoCo MD
Echotopia LLC
Environmental Action Club of Loyola University Maryland
Environmental Justice Coalition
Episcopal Cathedral of the Incarnation
Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ
Faith Presbyterian Church
Farm Alliance of Baltimore
First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis
Food & Water Watch
Frack Free Frostburg
Frederick Friends Meeting
Friends of The Jones Falls
Friends of Ruth B. Swann Park
Friends School of Baltimore Green Club
Govans Presbyterian Church
Gracefully Green, LLC

Green Amendments for the Generations
Greenbelt Climate Action Network
GreenGrace Maryland Episcopal Environmental Ministry
Green Towson Alliance
Gunpowder Valley Conservancy
Harford County Climate Action
HoCo Climate Action
Homewood Friends Meeting (Baltimore)
Howard County Board of Rabbis
Howard County Conservancy
Howard EcoWorks
InDiGO:Inward Discovery Grows Outdoors
Indivisible Worcester Maryland
Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake
Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)
Islamic Society of Washington Area
Izaak Walton League of America, Sportsman's Chapter
JemTech Environmental LLC
Jewish Community Relations Council, Jewish Federation of Howard County
Ji'Aire's Workgroup Mental Health and Wellness
Langley Park Civic Association, Inc.
League of Women Voters Maryland
Malouf & Associates, P.C.
Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home
Maryland Children's Environmental Health Coalition
Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network
Maryland Legislative Coalition
Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Maryland Ornithological Society

Maryland Pesticide Education Network
Maryland Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival
Maryland Presbyterian Church
Maryland Public Health Association
Maryland Votes for Animals
Memorial Episcopal Church
MLC Climate Justice Wing
Mountain Maryland Movement
Multifaith Alliance of Climate Stewards - Frederick
NAACP Maryland State Conference
National Aquarium
National Parks Conservation Association
Neighborhood Sun Benefit Corp
NeighborSpace of Baltimore County
New Ark United Church of Christ
Northeast Catholic Community
Nuclear Information and Resource Service
Old-Growth Forest Network
Potomac Conservancy
Prescient Energy LLC
Preservation Maryland
Progressive Cheverly
Rachel Carson Council
Rebuild Maryland Coalition
Roland Park Presbyterian Church
RoundPeg Benefit LLC
Safe Skies Maryland
SGA Sustainability Committee
ShoreRivers

St. Ignatius Church Baltimore
St. John's United Methodist Church, Baltimore City
St. Luke's Episcopal Church Eastport
St. Margaret's Church of Annapolis
St. Matthew Church Green Team
Stony Run Friends Meeting
Sunrise Movement Baltimore
Sunrise Movement Howard County
Sunrise Movement Maryland
Surfrider Foundation
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
Temple Shalom
The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland
The Episcopal Church of St. Michael and All Angels
The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer
The Farm at Our House
The Historic St. James Episcopal Church
The Vineyards at Dodon
Together We Will - Western Maryland
Trash Free Maryland
Unitarian Universalist Environmental Justice Ministry
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
University of Maryland School of Nursing
Utility Advisors Inc
Washington College Student Government Association
Waterkeepers Chesapeake
Wicomico Environmental Trust
WISE

HB596_MDEHR_Fav_Maryland Civic Leaders Letter of S

Uploaded by: Claire Miller

Position: FAV



February 21, 2022

Dear Chairman Barve, Delegate Stein, and Delegates of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

We, the undersigned civic leaders across Maryland, urge the Maryland General Assembly to pass HB596, the Maryland Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Human Rights.

The amendment would ensure that (1) each person, as a matter of human dignity, has a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment, and (2) the state, as the trustee of Maryland's natural resources, including its air, water, lands, wildlife, and ecosystems, shall preserve them for the benefit of current and future generations.

The state of Maryland recognized that "each person has the fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful environment," when it passed the Maryland Environmental Policy Act of 1973. Unfortunately, the Act has not been sufficiently effective.

By elevating the right to a healthful environment to the same level as such fundamental rights as freedoms of the press, religion, and speech, the Amendment will provide constitutionally based protections in addition to those set forth in existing environmental laws and regulations. The Amendment also makes explicit the State's trustee role as a steward of our environment and the constitutional obligation to protect this right.

These principles will strengthen the basis for addressing the cumulative effects of legacy pollution that disproportionately impact many of our minority and low-income communities, and will steer Maryland toward true sustainability. They will provide a solid foundation for improved laws, regulations and programs at all levels of government, and the additional scrutiny that comes from constitutional provisions will serve as a guardrail against the most egregious forms of harmful action, protecting all Marylanders, now and in future generations.

Similar amendments have been constructive and responsible contributors to the environmental and governmental frameworks of other states (Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Montana, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island) that have adopted them. New York State adopted its version of the amendment in November 2021, with 68.9 percent of voters approving it.

We ask that you support and pass HB596, the proposed Maryland Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Human Rights in 2022. Our communities, especially those that are marginalized, our children, our grandchildren, and future generations need us to act now.

Maryland Civic and Community Leaders

The Honorable Jud Ashman, Mayor of Gaithersburg



The Honorable Bennard Cann, Mayor of Morningside

The Honorable Jacob Day, Mayor of Salisbury

The Honorable Jeffrey Slavin, Mayor of Somerset

The Honorable Kate Stewart, Mayor of Takoma Park

The Honorable Noah Waters, Mayor of Eagle Harbor

The Honorable Patrick Wojahn, Mayor of College Park

Councilman Mark Conway, Baltimore City Council, District 4

Councilman Jack Heath, President of Salisbury City Council

Councilman Izzy Patoka, Baltimore County Council

Councilmember Danny Schaible, Hyattsville City Council

Councilmember Jimmy Tarlau, Mount Rainier

The City of Salisbury Sustainability Advisory Committee

Adrian Boafo, Mayor Pro Tem, Bowie

Nina Forsythe, Commissioner of Water, Parks, and Recreation, City of Frostburg

Chloe Malouf, Vice Chairperson, City of Gaithersburg's Environmental Affairs Committee

President Terrence Sawyer, Loyola University Maryland

Barry Hill, Adjunct Professor of Law, Vermont Law School/MDEHR Advisor

Patricia Pittman, Fitzhugh Mullan Professor, Milken Institute School of Public Health, George Wash. University

Darian Unger, Professor, Howard University

Dr. Sacoby Miguel Wilson, Associate Professor, UMD School of Public Health

Thomas Croghan, MD, Winemaker - The Vineyards of Dodon, Vice President - Future Harvest

Nicholas John Davenport, Social Worker

Nicholas DiPasquale, Director, Chesapeake Bay Program Office (retired)



Gwen DuBois, MD, MPH, President, Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility

Andy Ellis, Vice President, Waltherson Improvement Association

Rob Etgen, Founding President, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (retired)

Terrence Fitzgerald, MD, Treasurer, Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility

Willie Flowers, President, NAACP Maryland State Conference

Wayne Gilchrest, former U.S. Congressman, Maryland District 1 (retired)

Brooke Harper, Environmental Advocate

Staci Hartwell, Chair Environmental and Climate Justice Committee, NAACP Maryland State Conference

Rosa Hance, Chair, Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club

Rachel M. Hopp, Former Federal Environmental Program Manager and Enforcement Attorney/MDEHR Advisor

Steven W. Jones, Board President, Future Harvest

Bob Kambic, Visiting Scientist

Matthew Littleton, Environmental Lawyer/MDEHR Advisor

The Rev Richard D. Meadows Jr., Rector, The Historic St. James Episcopal Church

Arthur Milholland, Physician

Vernice Miller-Travis, Executive Vice President, Metropolitan Group

Ava Annette Richardson, PGC NAACP Liaison

Viriginia Rodino, APALA Maryland Chapter President

Martin Siegel, Environmental Lawyer/MDEHR Advisor

Dorothy Valakos, Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional

Rev. David James Ware, The Church of the Redeemer, Baltimore

Rabbi Stuart Weinblatt

HB596_MDEHR_Fav_MDEHRA Petition-merged FINAL.pdf

Uploaded by: Claire Miller

Position: FAV



February 21, 2022

Dear Chairman Barve, Vice-Chair Stein, and members of the Environment & Transportation Committee,

We, the people of Maryland, call upon the Maryland General Assembly, commencing January 12, 2022, to pass HB596, the Maryland Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Rights and thus add this amendment to the ballot at the next general election on November 8, 2022.

This amendment to the Declaration of Rights section of the Maryland Constitution would guarantee that every person, as a matter of basic human dignity, has a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful, stable environment. It would codify that the State is trustee of Maryland's natural resources, including its air, lands, waters, wildlife, and ecosystems, for the benefit of both present and future generations.

"Each person's fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful environment" was established in the Maryland Environmental Policy Act that the Maryland General Assembly passed in 1973.

We, the people of Maryland, believe this right needs to be protected in our state constitution for the following reasons.

1. It is a moral imperative to protect the basic human dignity of having a healthful environment
2. The health of the people of Maryland is negatively impacted by environmental pollution and degradation. The health disparities are more egregious in communities of color and low-income neighborhoods where environmental pollution and degradation is concentrated.
3. An Environmental Human Rights amendment would empower all Marylanders, local governments, and the state to protect and defend this fundamental right.
4. A constitutional right would be the foundation for improved laws and regulations, and act as a true guardrail to prevent the most egregious forms of harmful actions now and for future generations, providing environmental justice in our state.
5. A constitutional right, as opposed to a regular law, would ensure that environmental protection is considered among the highest obligations of the government, pursued as "a matter of the highest public priority," (per MEPA) and not merely "good public policy".

We, the undersigned people of Maryland, ask the leadership of the Maryland General Assembly to bring this amendment to a vote on the floor in both chambers and support passing HB596, the Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Rights during the 2022 legislative session. Give the people of Maryland the right to decide whether the right to a healthful environment is a constitutional priority.

Petition signatures: 2,334

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Patricia	Hannaway	435 Vindex Rd	Kitzmilller	MD	21538-1127	pattihannaway@gmail.com	01A	Just DO IT so we can protect what is left of our natural Environment. STOP tearing down people's lives for more asphalt.
Steve	Draper	3783 Bear Creek Rd	Accident	MD	21520-2201	sbdrap@gmail.com	01A	
CHRISTINE	CAMPE-PRICE	771 McAndrews Hill Rd	Grantsville	MD	21536-2144	campeprice@gmail.com	01A	
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Corrine	Mohnasky	PO Box 988	Mc Henry	MD	21541-0988	cmohnasky@hotmail.com	01A	
Karen	Krogh	336 Grandview Dr	Frostburg	MD	21532-1414	clckek@verizon.net	01B	Throughout my life I have done my best to live in harmony with nature. At age 68, I still ride my bicycle or walk whenever possible rather than use our car. It wasn't easy hauling my children in a bike trailer in this hilly terrain, but I did it to minimize my impact on the environment and to instill environmental ethics in their development. We raise a substantial amount of food in our garden, we invested in solar panels, and we are frugal in our use of water and energy. I feel like I am doing all I can to minimize my footprint on this earth. By including environmental rights into our state constitution, it would help to prioritize the importance of conservation and the need to live in harmony with nature.
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Debra	Care	21604 Ridenour Rd	Boonsboro	MD	21713-1525	carebear21605@hotmail.com	02A	Americans not to have their air, water and environment toxic.
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Linda	Rawlings	232 E 2nd St	Frederick	MD	21701-3801	gillian657@gmail.com	03A	Please put Maryland at the head of the line regarding environmental issues and climate change mitigation, which go hand in hand. Support for the Maryland Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Rights is an important step forward.
Christine	Conte	315 Selwyn Dr Apt 2A	Frederick	MD	21701-5935	christineconte23@gmail.com	03A	As a teacher who grew up in Rhode Island, a state that has already amended their constitution, I am hopeful that my new state will amend the constitution and prove its commitment to a sustainable future.
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Kelley	Dempsey	5342 Saint James Pl	Frederick	MD	21703-2834	kandg1@comcast.net	03B	Without clean air and clean water, what is the point of having other "rights?"
Dan	Rickson	2803 Chevy Chase Cir	Jefferson	MD	21755-8007	dfrickson@hotmail.com	03B	I want to leave the world a better place for my son.
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								We mostly ASSUME we in the US have a right to a clean and safe environment. But that is obviously not the case when that right is not enshrined in undeniable protection. By adding Environmental Rights to our state Constitution, we can be proud that all - regardless of race, gender, income, etc., - can enjoy breathing in clean air; drinking, swimming and fishing in clean water; and enjoying an earth in balance free of assaults from abuse and misuse.
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Stephen	Jones	9405 Highlander Blvd	Walkersville	MD	21793-9112	jonesst195@gmail.com	04	This should be a fundamental right of all citizens of Maryland
Kate	Gelhard	3901 Buffalo Rd	New Windsor	MD	21776-8226	dragonqat.co@comcast.net	04	The environment gets left out when the economy is hurting. This just makes things worse all around. Please take some steps to combat this.
Lewis	Sherman	11301 Daysville Rd	Frederick	MD	21701-2224	lewsherm@comcast.net	04	No one should object to this amendment. This is basic right that is often infringed upon by both government and industry. Its a shame that it happens, but that's reality in our culture. An amendment to the constitution will imbed this right into our legal and social systems. It is a no brainer.
Kimberly	Stewart	6710 Picnic Woods Rd	Jefferson	MD	21755-9602	glenwillow1@comcast.net	04	Let Maryland be a leader to ending dependence on fossil fuels and cleaning up the earth.

Edith	Smith	6250 Woodwinds Ct	Mount Airy	MD	21771-7487	c-es@comcast.net	04	Including environmental rights in the Maryland Constitution seems like a good section to ensure healthy air, water, and land.
Jeffrey	Tunkel	1812 Kings Forest Trl	Mount Airy	MD	21771-8742	jwntunkel@gmail.com	04	Every person deserves a clean environment, and a chance to live a healthy life. Please support this amendment to enshrine this right in our constitution.
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Braeden	Rowley	3989 Farmwoods Ln	Hampstead	MD	21074-1509	braedenrowley21@gmail.com	05	
Delaney	Ballard	1001 Gullo Rd	New Windsor	MD	21776	laxbug@hotmail.com	05	
Claire	Barry	486 Antero Dr	Westminster	MD	21157	poesisoasis@yahoo.com	05	
James	Bauch	3979 Hawks Hill Rd.	New Windsor	MD	21776	topnotch@qis.net	05	
Kim	Brown	4194 Fallow Drive	Hampstead	MD	21074	kimvanbrown@me.com	05	
Alice	Denney	3500 Lawndale Road E.	Reisterstown	MD	21136	Azdenney@gmail.com	05	
Diana	Eclavea	770 Lone Tree Rd	Westminster	MD	21157	declavea@comcast.net	05	
Lisette	Garcia	4 Tiffany court	Westminster	MD	21157	lisetteg0503@gmail.com	05	
Michael	Hudgins	949 Wesley Road	Finksburg	MD	21048	mdhudgins57@gmail.com	05	
Paul	Kazyak	628 Barnes Avenue	Westminster	MD	21157	kazyakpaul@gmail.com	05	
Catherine	Marinello	298 East Green Street, Apt A, Apt A	Westminster	MD	21157	katiemarinello20@gmail.com	05	
Steven	Ostendorf	210, Colbert Street	Taneytown	MD	21787	revsteveostendorf@gmail.com	05	
Kate	Sanner	2016 FRIZZELLBURG RD	Westminster	MD	21158	k_sanner@msn.com	05	
Jessica	Townsley	1766 Upper Forde Ln	Hampstead	MD	21074	theveganminister@gmail.com	05	

wj	winston	179 e main st	Westminster	MD	21157	wjw@winstonlaw.net	05	
Terri Lynn	Miller	7933 Bridge Ave	Rosedale	MD	21237-2702	scoobies3hp@aol.com	06	I want my children and grandchildren and my great grand son to live in a clean environment. Please respect Mother Earth.
Judith	Ramos	7108 Armistead Rd	Sparrows Pt	MD	21219-1238	ramosjudy3@aol.com	06	
Sean	Coffey	123 main st	Baltimore	MD	21201	joe.mama@gmail.com	06	
Laura	Gousha	2634 Linzey Road	Essex	MD	21221	lgousha88@gmail.com	06	
Shari	Hassman	2217 Monocacy Road	Essex	MD	21221	shrbear12345@yahoo.com	06	
Catherine	Herbert	313 Homberg Avenue	Essex	MD	21221	mtkmom86@msn.com	06	
Hajrah	Jalil	1123 Rosedale Ave	Rosedale	MD	21237	hjalil@loyola.edu	06	
Kathy	Lambrow	1857 Cape May Rd	Essex	MD	21221	Klambrow@comcast.net	06	
Kelly	May	48 Landmark Ct	Essex	MD	21221	kjmay81582@gmail.com	06	
Jazmyn	Rice	96 shipway Dundalk	Dundalk	MD	21222	jazmyn.rice@yahoo.com	06	
Karen	Shelley	7850 north cove rd	Sparrows Point	MD	21219	karenbittner15@yahoo.com	06	
Ella	Stover	7837 catherine ave	Dundalk	MD	21222	ella71906stover@icloud.com	06	
Melanie	Merriken	3882 Colwyn Dr	Jarrettsville	MD	21084-1410	mmerriken@hotmail.com	07	This is absolutely a no brainer! This should be part of our Maryland state constitution
Joan	Gugerty	13907 Manor Rd	Baldwin	MD	21013-9608	joangugerty@gmail.com	07	The citizens of this nations have a right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That is very difficult when the representatives we have are not protecting us from policies and corporations that are destroying the earth that sustains our lives. We need a law that will force those who represent us to truly represent our best interests. We have environmental rights - we need to make it law so its enforceable.
Bill	Temmink	425 Latimer Rd	Joppa	MD	21085-4622	btemmink@comcast.net	07	I live in a particularly dirty area of Harford County. It is a non-attainment region for both air and water. I have continual allergies. I sort of have to over-medicate to get through the day and evening.
Mary	Mcclintock	2132 Pleasantville Rd	Fallston	MD	21047-1439	mamclintock33@gmail.com	07	I dream of a state that is a "job destination state" because of it's constitutional commitment to a clean and just environment.
Sue	Courtney	2303 Reliance Ct	Jarrettsville	MD	21084-1014	omasgirls@verizon.net	07	
Richard	Knox	12908 Community Rd	Middle River	MD	21220-1014	hardknox5151@yahoo.com	07	
Samuel	Snyder	204 Compass Rd	Baltimore	MD	21221-3267	sams4ems@comcast.net	07	
Thomas	Stehr	13809 Manor Glen Rd	Baldwin	MD	21013-9714	tstehr@baltimorecountymd.gov	07	
Patricia	Fouse	2241 Engle Rd	Fallston	MD	21047-1003	pfouse@gmail.com	07	
Kendra	Angione	4541 Golden Meadow Dr	Perry Hall	MD	21128-9037	letsgogreen365@gmail.com	07	
Steven	Kline	6508 Blackhead Rd	Middle River	MD	21220-1211	skline57@verizon.net	07	
Dorothy	Attwell	21008 West Liberty Road	White Hall	MD	21161	dotattwell@gmail.com	07	
Diane	Chiaro	2201 WATERVALE RD	Fallston	MD	21047	dchiaro1@yahoo.com	07	
David	Coakley	1412 Stockton Road	Joppa	MD	21085	davidcoakley6@gmail.com	07	
Paul	Edwards	2915 Suffolk Rd	Fallston	MD	21047	Pedwards0701@gmail.com	07	
Alyssa	Ehesam	2 Milton Avenue	Fallston	MD	21047	alyssa.ehsam40@gmail.com	07	
Leslie	Erickson	3316 N. Furnace Rd	Jarrettsville	MD	21084	leerickson@comcast.net	07	
Lynn	Faulkner	PO Box 568	Fallston	MD	21047-0568	LYFAU12@GMAIL.COM	07	
Melinda Grace	Fowl	7021 Heathcoate Drive	Kingsville	MD	21087	LittleBray4@gmail.com	07	
Stephen	Fowl	7021 Heathcoate dr, kingsville	Kingsville	MD	21087	sfowl1@gmail.com	07	
Deanna	Harkins	901 Alexandria Court	Bel Air	MD	21014	deanna.harkins@gmail.com	07	
Elizabeth	Harlan	2848 Pleasantville Road	Fallston	MD	21047	elizabethharlan@mac.com	07	
Angela	Hopkins	4 Zelda Ct	White Hall	MD	21161	lilhop19@aol.com	07	
Amanda	Korpon	2200 Hyden Court	Fallston	MD	21047	laughtonamanda@hotmail.com	07	

Cheryl	Leddon	2915 Suffolk lane	Fallston	MD	21047	cleddon@comcast.net	07	
Carol	Mason	3212 Foxglove Ln	Middle River	MD	21220	mason_carol@comcast.net	07	
Wendy	McPherson	1727 Chrisara Court	Forest Hill	MD	21050	wendy.mcpherson@gmail.com	07	
Molly	Neal	2517 Putnam Rd	Forest Hill	MD	21050	rosie4us2@yahoo.com	07	
David	Norse Thomas	2722 Paper Mill Road	Phoenix	MD	21131	david@mpchurch.org	07	
Ken	Phelps Jr	11550 Crossroads Circle, Unit # 286	MIDDLE RIVER	MD	21220	phelpsjrko@gmail.com	07	
Christine	Riegel	7035 Oliverwood Rd	Middle River	MD	21220	crtanga@aol.com	07	
Corry	Royer	2802 Glen Elyn Way	Baldwin	MD	21013	corry.royer@gmail.com	07	
Liz	Scarito	6 Zelda Ct.	White Hall	MD	21161	escarito1@gmail.com	07	
Raymond	Simmons	14530 Manor Rd.	Phoenix	MD	21131	lennature@gmail.com	07	
Hunter	Soth	4400 Cross Brook Dr	Perry Hall	MD	21128	hsoth03@gmail.com	07	
Cydney	Walton	1106 Sunset Drive	Bel Air	MD	21014	cwalton@terpmail.umd.edu	07	
Marco	Welch	102 Spot Club Road	Baldwin	MD	21013	marco111welch@gmail.com	07	
Joseph W	Witcher	3316 N. Furnace Rd	Jarrettsville	MD	21084	jwwitch@comcast.net	07	
Brian	Greenlee	9606 Dundawan Rd	Baltimore	MD	21236-1009	brian@greenleegraphics.com	08	
Richard	Kasputis	2808 Onyx Rd	Parkville	MD	21234-5639	kasputisr@yahoo.com	08	
Tim	Burke	31 Pike Hall Pl	Baltimore	MD	21236-4744	tburke12@jhmi.edu	08	
Alan	Wojtalik	3723 Green Oak Ct	Baltimore	MD	21234-4258	alan_wojtalik@hotmail.com	08	
Karen	Orner	4231 Thorncliff Rd	Nottingham	MD	21236-4013	korner365@yahoo.com	08	
Haley	Kelly	9010 Simms Ave	Parkville	MD	21234-1316	martin.haley.m@gmail.com	08	
Jack	Meyers	7504 Kenlea Ave	Nottingham	MD	21236-4320	jackbufc05@gmail.com	08	
Tomaszewski	Amy	2900 5th Ave	Parkville	MD	21234	amyski4@gmail.com	08	
Amanda	D	9024 hadron rd	Silver Meadow	MD	21236	aadean@outlook.com	08	
Elizabeth	Dahl	3011 OAK FOREST DR	Parkville	MD	21234	liz_dahl@hotmail.com	08	
Sharon	DUDEK	5 Leinster Garth	Silver Meadow	MD	21236	allmeg@comcast.net	08	
Madeleine	Dwyer	1904 Edgewood Road	Towson	MD	21286	mkdwyer@umaryland.edu	08	
Laurel	Freeman	11 Bridgeview Ct	Silver Meadow	MD	21236	lagoodrick@loyola.edu	08	
Daniel	Giordano	2905 2nd Avenue	Parkville	MD	21234	dgiordano1@gmail.com	08	
Robert	Najewicz	5 Leinster Garth	Silver Meadow	MD	21236	rnajewicz@ecslimited.com	08	
Elizabeth	Parent	9508 Dundawan Road	Silver Meadow	MD	21236	elizabethcerwonka@gmail.com	08	
Brad	Schlegel	1405 Spring Ave	Rosedale	MD	21237	skifastoo@gmail.com	08	
Joyce A	Stevens	8528 Hydra Ln	Silver Meadow	MD	21236-3006	joyce445@gmail.com	08	
Mary	Trotta	4700 Vicky Rd.	Silver Meadow	MD	21236	mtrotta303@gmail.com	08	
jack	wise	3766 Timahoe Circle	Silver Meadow	MD	21236	hikingjack@netzero.net	08	
SUE	Woodman	4233 Belmar Ave	Baltimore	MD	21206	slwoodman2@gmail.com	08	
Irma	Bensingers	3300 Roscommon Drive	Glenelg	MD	21737	ibensingers@comcast.net	09	
Natalie	Booth	8721 Chapel Hill Drive	Ellicott City	MD	21043	nat.booth@me.com	09	
Sahana	Callahan	3310 Coventry Court Dr	Ellicott City	MD	21042-2142	shaydcal@gmail.com	09	
Veronika	Carella	3124 Longfield Road	Glenwood	MD	21738	jlcarella@msn.com	09	
Veronika	Carella	P.O. Box 97	Glenwood	MD	21738	veronika.carella@mdcehc.org	09	
Lisa	Colangelo	13757 Frederick Rd	West Friendship	MD	21794	lcolangelo@verizon.net	09	
Emily	Cosgrove	9217 Victoria Drive	Ellicott City	MD	21042	2flamingo176@gmail.com	09	
Madeline	Flack	6511 Chantilly Drive	Sykesville	MD	21784	mdflack@comcast.net	09	
Emma	Flieman	13123 Williamfield Dr	Ellicott City	MD	21042	emmaflieman@gmail.com	09	

Peter	Fuechsel	13906 Castlebar Dr.	Glenwood	MD	21738	joanandpeter@comcast.net	09	
Sarah	Gonzalez	6714 Mink Hollow Road	Highland	MD	20777	sarahmariagonzalez@gmail.com	09	
james	gormley	2805 Eagles Landing Ct	Ellicott City	MD	21042	jimgormley@comcast.net	09	
Karen	Gormley	2805 Eagles Landing Ct	Ellicott City	MD	21042	kantravel@yahoo.com	09	
laila	greene	2715 Snowmill Court	Ellicott City	MD	21043	lailagreene424@gmail.com	09	
Lynn	Gregg	11120 Chambers Ct Unit K	Woodstock	MD	21163	lhg5037@gmail.com	09	
Jennifer	Grimelli	2000 Arrington Road, Marriottsville	Marriottsville	MD	21104	jgrimellistandrews@gmail.com	09	
Aileen	Hepler	14 Gaither Manor Drive #104	Sykesville	MD	21784	aileenmd@comcast.net	09	
Kathy	Howell	8389 Old Frederick Rd	Ellicott City	MD	21043	soledadsole22@gmail.com	09	
Thomas	Jankowski	2725 Woodridge ct	West Friendship	MD	21794	Jankonia54@yahoo.com	09	
Andrea	King	P.O. Box 233	Fulton	MD	20759	revamking@yahoo.com	09	
Laura	Mettle	3320 Daisy Road	Woodbine	MD	21797	ldmettle@yahoo.com	09	
Lea-Pearl	Njei	8323 Old Frederick RD	Ellicott City	MD	21043	leaparl2005@gmail.com	09	
Eliza	O'Connor	9713 Longview Dr	Columbia	MD	21044	elizacyoc@gmail.com	09	
Pam	Perna	15074 Bushy Park Road	Woodbine	MD	21797	pjperna@gmail.com	09	
Mary	Prowell	1100 Long Corner Road	Mount Airy	MD	21771	boprow@gmail.com	09	
Samantha	Ritter	2817 Still Leaf Lane	Ellicott City	MD	21042	samritter1942@gmail.com	09	
Alexander	Ross	3300 Roscommon Dr	Glenelg	MD	21737	Alexande_ross@comcast.net	09	
Ken	Schaffer	3109 Nesting Pines Ct	Ellicott City	MD	21042	kschaffer@protonmail.com	09	
Jeffrey	Soulen	2833 Montclair Dr	Ellicott City	MD	21043	soulen23@jeffsoulen.com	09	
Patricia	Steinhilber	16082 A.E. Mullinix Road, Woodbine 21797	Woodbine	MD	21797	ppf.woodbine@gmail.com	09	
Charles	Stirrat	13318 Hunt Rdg	Ellicott City	MD	21042-1155	stirrbird@outlook.com	09	
Disha	Thakkar	2912 Rosemar Drive	Ellicott City	MD	21043	thakkardisha19@gmail.com	09	
Robin	Todd	10174 Green Clover Drive	Ellicott City	MD	21042	totnesman@aol.com	09	
Kem	White	2117 Beckett Way	Woodstock	MD	21163	kemwhite@outlook.com	09	
Cynthia	Williams	15754 Union Chapel Rd.	Woodbine	MD	21797	cawilliams66@hotmail.com	09	
Hilary	Yarmus	13822, Lakeside Dr	Clarksville	MD	21029	hilyar@gmail.com	09	
Kylie		2240 Kaitlins ct	Ellicott City	MD	21043	kewisni@gmail.com	09	
Linda	Martinak	12217 Woodford Dr	Marriottsville	MD	21104-1462	lindamartinak@verizon.net	09A	This is a fundamental, moral right that each individual must have in the current global warming environment. Please support this bill when the time comes. We do not have time to put it aside for the future. That future is NOW.
Peter	Alexander	15615 Camden Meadows Ct	Woodbine	MD	21797-8763	palexand54@gmail.com	09A	It's very easy to pass over the importance of environmental protection as being too hard or too expensive. Let's codify it in our state constitution.
Ava	Suko	15029 Oak Ridge Ct	Dayton	MD	21036-1257	ava.suko24@gmail.com	09A	I strongly believe that protections on the environment not only preserve the trees and ecosystems (which is super important!) but also protects my future, my health, and the health of all residents of Maryland. I don't believe there is anything more important than prioritizing the health, safety, and happiness of all people, which goes hand in hand with protecting the environment.
Cynthia	Williams	15754 Union Chapel Rd	Woodbine	MD	21797-7710	cawilliams66@hotmail.com	09A	
Nandita	Shah	7024 Mink Hollow Rd	Highland	MD	20777-9770	shahnandi@gmail.com	09A	
Mary	Morris	8567 Murphy Rd	Laurel	MD	20723-2011	plurmom@aol.com	09A	
Steven	Shane	9513 Valley Mede Ct	Ellicott City	MD	21042-2363	steve9513@gmail.com	09A	
Allison	Rossomondo	16000 Fields End Ct	Woodbine	MD	21797-7542	ally.mondo@gmail.com	09A	

Don-Terry	Veal	10563 Dorchester Way	Woodstock	MD	21163-1377	lettersand23@gmail.com	09A	
Nancy	Wade	3649 Valley Rd	Ellicott City	MD	21042-5230	jrnrw@aol.com	09B	Recognizing the fundamental right to a clean and healthy environment can provide significant and long-standing benefits.
Patricia	Soffen	5310 Honey Ct	Ellicott City	MD	21043-8205	patricia.soffen@gmail.com	09B	It is past time to act in creating a truly equitable environment for all our citizens.
Frances	Donaldson	2911 Pauls Provision	Ellicott City	MD	21042-3891	frandonaldson@hotmail.com	09B	
Peter	Katan	2510 Kensington Gdns Unit 304	Ellicott City	MD	21043-3606	peterkatan@comcast.net	09B	
Omar	Siddique	4517 Rebecca Ct	Ellicott City	MD	21043-6010	omars1234@gmail.com	09B	
Renee	Jaranson	7180 Millbury Ct	Elkridge	MD	21075-5567	rjaran37@gmail.com	09B	
Kevin	Cheung	3347 Oak West Dr	Ellicott City	MD	21043-4346	kevincheung27@gmail.com	09B	
Roni	Berkowitz	2530 Kensington Gardens	Ellicott City	MD	21043	roniberkowitz42@aol.com	09B	
Dina	Boogaard	8576 Coltrane Court	Ellicott City	MD	21043	djboogaard444@gmail.com	09B	
Fransiska	Dale	9815 Northbrook Court	Ellicott City	MD	21042	fransiska.dale@gmail.com	09B	
Sophia	D'Alonzo	9905 Frederick Road	Ellicott City	MD	21042	sophialyn6@gmail.com	09B	
Kiana	Fok	4501 Worthington Manor Way	Ellicott City	MD	21043	kianafok@gmail.com	09B	
Colleen	Guler	3729 Ligon Rd	Ellicott City	MD	21042	colleenguler@gmail.com	09B	
Cindy	Gunderson	8115 , Yellow Pine Drive	Ellicott City	MD	21043	cinron.md@gmail.com	09B	
Michelle	Heck	3620 Chateau Ridge Drive	Ellicott City	MD	21042	michelleheck@gmail.com	09B	
Susan	Imbach	3894 Paul Mill Rd	Ellicott City	MD	21042	susanimbach@comcast.net	09B	
Suzanne	James	9000 Fathers Legacy, Apt 413, Ellicott City, MD 21042	Ellicott City	MD	21042	shjames4@gmail.com	09B	
Thomas	King	4620 Learned Sage	Ellicott City	MD	21042	trk1125@comcast.net	09B	
Ivy	Liu	3716 Chatham Road	Ellicott City	MD	21042	iliu988@gmail.com	09B	
Kathleen	Marucci	8617 Spruce Run Court	Ellicott City	MD	21043	kam789@verizon.net	09B	
Sharon	Norris	4911 Ilchester Point Court	Ellicott City	MD	21043	smnorris7@gmail.com	09B	
Andrea	Owusu	3150 North Ridge Rd	Ellicott City	MD	21043	aowusu9265@gmail.com	09B	
Elaine	Pardoe	9000 Fathers Legacy #112	Ellicott City	MD	21042	em.pardoe@verizon.net	09B	
Kaitlyn	Plough	7508 Quiet Shade Lane	Ellicott City	MD	21043	kate.a.plough@gmail.com	09B	
shriya	reddy	4065 Tiber Falls Dr	Ellicott City	MD	21043-7172	shriyaaareddy@gmail.com	09B	
Cathy	Rice	4209 Pulitzer Circle	Ellicott City	MD	21042	mandcrice@aol.com	09B	
Cathy	Rice	4209 Pulitzer Circle, Ellicott City, MD. 21042	Ellicott City	MD	21042	cprpenpal@gmail.com	09B	
Karin	Russ	4680 WOODLAND RD	Ellicott City	MD	21042	kmgruss@gmail.com	09B	
Kurt	Schwarz	9045 Dunloggin Ct.	Columbia	MD	21046	krschwa1@verizon.net	09B	
Martha	Simpson	9800 Woodbridge Ct	Ellicott City	MD	21042	martipsimpson@gmail.com	09B	
Johanna	Som de Cerff	4233 SCARLET SAGE CT	ELLCOTT CITY	MD	21042	Johannasdc@gmail.com	09B	
Amit	Thakrar	4101 Hogg Court	Ellicott City	MD	21043	athakrar10@icloud.com	09B	
Aaron	Valdivia	4013 wildwood way	Ellicott City	MD	21042	advaldivia@hotmail.com	09B	
Kathleen	Valdivia	4013 Wildwood Way	Ellicott City	MD	21042	kavaldivia09@gmail.com	09B	
Eileen	Washington	8866 Town & Country Blvd.	Ellicott City	MD	21043	ewashington1006@gmail.com	09B	
Barbara	Winter Watson	10314 Cromwell CT	Ellicott City	MD	21042	bwinterwatson@gmail.com	09B	
		9819 Tenney Ct	Ellicott City	MD	21042	mbhamra@outlook.com	09B	
Marie	Laporte	2516 Chestnut Woods Ct	Reisterstown	MD	21136-5523	marielaporte@verizon.net	10	This is the lens through which all legislations should be reviewed. We are the wealthiest state in the country, yet we still poison some of our citizens. All people have a right to clean water and air.

								Healthful environments are a core responsibility and should be a priority for government. Not only is it important now, but also for future generations. We need a foundation for more effective environmental laws, regulations and implementation or administration of the effective laws.
Timmi	Wolff	215 Glyndon Meadow Rd	Reisterstown	MD	21136-6438	timmi@wolffandcompany.com	10	
Susan	Morseth	5006 Hollington Dr	Owings Mills	MD	21117-7022	susanmorseth@comcast.net	10	
Robin	Auerback	28 Ridgelawn Rd	Reisterstown	MD	21136-3658	rcauerback@gmail.com	10	
Kathy	Cooper	172 Pittston Cir	Owings Mills	MD	21117-1738	coopbaby9@yahoo.com	10	
Matthew	Geckle	12200 Owings Mills Blvd	Reisterstown	MD	21136-1730	124hratm@comcast.net	10	
Jin	Nothmann	9041 Meadow Heights Rd	Randallstown	MD	21133-3627	jiniith44@gmail.com	10	
Sheridan	Allmond	7410 Millwood Road	Windsor Mill	MD	21244	sallmond03@yahoo.com	10	
Arlynne	Brown	2523 Baublitz Road Reisterstown	Reisterstown	MD	21136-5501	arbrown2@gmail.com	10	
Taylor	Brumagin	11 Sunday Ct	Reisterstown	MD	21136	taylorjeanbrum@aol.com	10	
Billie	Burris	3817 courtleigh Drive	Randallstown	MD	21133	athomebillie@yahoo.com	10	
Joyce	Holbrook	3946 Mount Zion Rd	Upperco	MD	21155	jrholbrook47@gmail.com	10	
Hodavia	Kalombo	4 high side Ct	Owings Mills	MD	21117	hodikalombo@gmail.com	10	
Marie	LaPorte	2516 Chestnut Woods Ct.	Reisterstown	MD	21136	MARIELAPORTE@VERIZON.NET	10	
Brad	Leddon	433 Highmeadow Rd	Reisterstown	MD	21136	brad01mcd@aim.com	10	
Lindsay	Leddon	433 Highmeadow road	Reisterstown	MD	21136	vb29lindsay@yahoo.com	10	
Laura	Margolis	5516 Emory Rd	Upperco	MD	21155	laurajmargolis@gmail.com	10	
Cecilia	Rund	5405 Weywood Dr	Reisterstown	MD	21136-4501	cerrund@yahoo.com	10	
Sibga	Sufian	11 Bank Spring Ct	Owings Mills	MD	21117	sibga.sufian@gmail.com	10	
Stuart	Schoenfeld	55 Bellchase Ct	Baltimore	MD	21208-1300	schoenfeldstuart2@gmail.com	11	Yes, do this and MORE! Thank you!
Mary	Bunting	6506 Darnall Rd	Towson	MD	21204-6423	marycathybunting@comcast.net	11	This is what all human beings deserve. It is a human right.
Sandra	Zylberman	18 Barnstable Ct	Owings Mills	MD	21117-1102	blackgevy@hotmail.com	11	It would help to ensure the healthy survival of our state if we add environmental rights to the state constitution!
Amy	Huntoon	6132 Allwood Ct Apt 231	Baltimore	MD	21210-1141	amohunt@gmail.com	11	I am an avid hiker and biker and want to make sure that our state's green environment is protected by this constitutional amendment. And I want to make sure everyone in Maryland has equal access to green spaces - we certainly have seen the importance of parks and conserved areas during our Covid times.
Cynthia	Taylor	4800 Coyle Rd Apt 409	Owings Mills	MD	21117-5097	cynthiaataylor@gmail.com	11	For too long communities of color have suffered from what was once called environmental racism and today continues to impact those communities, especially the children, with asthma and other health issues. Even trees are lacking in these areas and healthy spaces for recreation. My daughter, niece and nephew are all residents of Baltimore and grew up with asthma. Incinerators and pollution from businesses and trucks endanger the lives of students going to school in in these areas. Global warming is a real and present danger to use all. Only by demanding that all Marylanders have the right to a healthy, clean environment can we be empowered to take the needed actions.
Noel	Levy	11 Windsong Ct	Baltimore	MD	21208-1930	megamapster@gmail.com	11	Because the environment is ALWAYS relegated to the back burner!
Zeynep	Akkan	31 Barbican Way	Pikesville	MD	21208-1420	zeynep_akkan@mccormick.com	11	
Tim	Anderson	1426 Hillside Rd	Stevenson	MD	21153-0659	andercello2003@aol.com	11	
Danielle	deConge	4616 Hawksbury Rd	Pikesville	MD	21208-2126	danielle@deconge.com	11	
Hayley Eli	Speight	2104 Our Ln	Stevenson	MD	21153-0672	hespeight@outlook.com	11	
Paul	Eisenberg	9 Pomona S Apt 3	Pikesville	MD	21208-2844	eisenber@indiana.edu	11	
Rhona	Fisher	319 Chalk Hill Dr	Baltimore	MD	21208-1046	fisherrhona2@gmail.com	11	
Lisa	Reichenbach	7601 Lhironnelle Club Rd	Towson	MD	21204-6421	lisareichenbach@yahoo.com	11	
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Allison	Wolfe	8222 Carrbridge Circle	Towson	MD	21204	allybwolfe@gmail.com	11	
Grace		1016 Chestnut Ridge Drive	Lutherville Timon	MD	21093	graceg0214@gmail.com	11	
Cynthia	Alden	11909 New Country Ln	Columbia	MD	21044-4404	cmalden2015@gmail.com	12	We all deserve to live in a clean and healthy environment, especially those of us with lower incomes and less power.
Carla	Tevelow	10205 Wincopin Cir Apt 308	Columbia	MD	21044-3435	perlpubl@gmail.com	12	It's time we honor and respect a healthful earth system and the people effected by it.
Adison	Geritz	5304 Woodnote Ln	Columbia	MD	21044-5707	adisongeritz@gmail.com	12	It'll guarantee Marylanders the right to clean air, clean water, etc. and will make it easier for lawmakers to pass further environmental legislation in the future.
Sharon	Boies	5226 Paul Revere Ride	Columbia	MD	21044-1316	sbmuzicmts@gmail.com	12	It feels like developers are leading the way in Maryland. Columbia residents are facing the loss of 65 forested acres so a mitigation bank can be created to allow developers to cause environmental harm elsewhere and not have to mitigate the harm, now they can just buy a credit, presto whamo and goodbye environment. This must stop ! Residents and the existing wildlife should have equal or more rights than developers and developers should have to pay to Save the Bay.
Katherine	Leonard	10109 Windstream Dr Apt 5	Columbia	MD	21044-2530	rkacl@aol.com	12	In this time of climate crisis, it is imperative that environmental protections are prioritized.
M	Sampery	1219 Brandford Rd	Baltimore	MD	21228-5811	msampery@aol.com	12	I love nature. Mother Earth needs our protection and care ASAP.
Mary	Clark	5153 Morningside Ln	Ellicott City	MD	21043-7950	doctorfx_99@yahoo.com	12	I am proud to be a Marylander as we work to save the Chesapeake Bay. We have made a lot of progress in the last 37 years. However, we have an even more intrinsic need-to save the environment for the next generation and the next. Please pass the Maryland Environment Human Rights Amendment so that it will be on the next ballot on November 8th of this year. Thank you
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David	Dittman	6318 Wimbledon Ct	Elkridge	MD	21075-5900	davedittman@msn.com	13	This is too often overlooked when deciding environmental impact.
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Kurt	Schwarz	7329 Wildwood Ct	Columbia	MD	21046-3477	krschwa1@verizon.net	13	Pennsylvania has environmental rights in its constitution. And citizens have discovered this, and used it to sue on behalf of the environment. Marylanders' should have the same rights!
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Kristin	Parrish	7525 Rain Flower Way	Columbia	MD	21046	klparrish74@gmail.com	13	
Alice	Pham	9650 Sandlight Ct	Columbia	MD	21046	alicekpham@yahoo.com	13	
Rebecca	Reese	7159 PINDELL SCHOOL RD	Fulton	MD	20759	in4mbecky@gmail.com	13	
Sheila	Robinson	9430 Wandering Way	Columbia	MD	21045	sheila_robinson@verizon.net	13	
Molly	Ross	8292 Lark Brown Road	Columbia	MD	21045	molly.rossie@gmail.com	13	
STEPHEN	ROTH	8325 SAVAGE GUILFORD RD	Savage	MD	20763	srothumd@gmail.com	13	
Ronee	Rothman	6343 Rainprint Row	Columbia	MD	21045	rr6343@comcast.net	13	
Steve	Rothman	6343 Rainprint Row	Columbia	MD	21045	sr6343@comcast.net	13	
Alex	Sadzewicz	10217 Scaggsville Rd	Laurel	MD	20723	amsadze@gmail.com	13	
David	Sandler	6587 Madrigal Terr	Columbia	MD	21045	detour65@gmail.com	13	
Robert	Solem	10617 Graeloch Road	Laurel	MD	20723-1120	odenata@msn.com	13	
Linda	Southworth	9763 Early Spring Way	Columbia	MD	21046	linda.southworth13@yahoo.com	13	
Daniel	Southworth	9763 Early Spring Way, Columbia, MD	Columbia	MD	21046	dansouth2013@gmail.com	13	
Ned	Tillman	9467 Hickory Llmb	Columbia	MD	21043	ned@sustainable.us	13	
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Phil	Webster	7553 Broadcloth Way	Columbia	MD	21046	phil.webster@me.com	13	
Laura	Williams	10630 Hesperian Drive	Laurel	MD	20723	lbwilliams79@gmail.com	13	
Deb		10630 Hesperian Drive	Laurel	MD	20723	dlwmum@hotmail.com	13	
Sirina	Sucklal	PO Box 460	Savage	MD	20763-0460	ssucklal@hotmail.com	13	
Eneshal	Miller	3927 Blackburn Ln	Burtonsville	MD	20866-1294	eneshalmiller@iycfv.org	14	We need protections and need you as policymakers to see the benefit in Environmental Rights To the Maryland Constitution.
Susan	Nerlinger	18255 Rolling Meadow Way	Olney	MD	20832-1789	snerlinger@earthlink.net	14	We all have a right to a clean environment and no one has the right to despoil it.
Anne	Riley	3144 Gracefield Rd Apt T19	Silver Spring	MD	20904-5895	shrinkear@gmail.com	14	Survival is the most important of all!
Christine	Powell	23701 Eli Ln	Gaithersburg	MD	20882-3002	krisztin@yahoo.com	14	
Bridget	Pieroni	24912 Silver Crest Dr	Gaithersburg	MD	20882-3627	bridgetmpieroni@gmail.com	14	
David	LeGrande	17845 Shotley Bridge Pl	Olney	MD	20832-1670	davidelegrande1@gmail.com	14	
Stephen	Jascourt	3527 Toddsbury Ln	Olney	MD	20832-1355	jascourt@umich.edu	14	
Donald	Gerson	3148 Castleigh Rd	Silver Spring	MD	20904-1713	donaldgerson@yahoo.com	14	
Alexander	Lewin	1712 Hickory Knoll Rd	Sandy Spring	MD	20860-1312	aznel@comcast.net	14	
Robin	Mann	4203 Sugar Pine Ct	Burtonsville	MD	20866-1153	rmann23@hotmail.com	14	

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Ellen	Atkinson	17330 Quaker Ln	Sandy Spring	MD	20860-1218	maryelle1214@gmail.com	14	
James	Meyer	9819 Sugarloaf Dr	Damascus	MD	20872-1924	arjmeyer@verizon.net	14	
Patrick	Knight	3156 Gracefield Rd Apt 418	Silver Spring	MD	20904-0826	patnuxcja3@verizon.net	14	
Clare	Margiotta	17301 Quaker Ln	Sandy Spring	MD	20860-1248	pclare44@hotmail.com	14	
Nora	Swisher	14652 Woonsocket Dr	Silver Spring	MD	20905-5771	noswisher@gmail.com	14	
Jeffrey	Spendelow	12421 Galway Dr	Silver Spring	MD	20904-1724	jeffspendelow@hotmail.com	14	
Diana	Clay	23509 Puritan Pl	Damascus	MD	20872-2922	djclay@smcm.edu	14	
Ellen	Atkinson	17330 Quaker Lane	Sandy Spring	MD	20860	mellen.atkinson@gmail.com	14	
Anurag	Babbar	141 Hawkes ct	Clarksburg	MD	20871	anu@cgofa.com	14	
Ramona	Buck	512 Scott Drive	Silver Spring	MD	20904	ramonabuck@gmail.com	14	
Sonali	Chitalia	3806 Cotton Tree Lane	Burtonsville	MD	20866	schitalia17@gmail.com	14	
Navnit	Chitalia	3806 cotton tree lane	Burtonsville	MD	20866	nchitalia@gmail.com	14	
Jane	Clarke	10428 Carlyn Ridge Rd	Damascus	MD	20872	jjclarke57@gmail.com	14	
William	Dinges	15308 Graaf Pl.	Silver Spring	MD	20905	wovokapi@outlook.com	14	
Anne	Greene	17219 Quaker Lane	Sandy Spring	MD	20860	annegreene@hushmail.com	14	
Deborah	Hanley	409 Highgate Terrace	Silver Spring	MD	20904	djhanley1952@yahoo.com	14	
Mairead	James	17609 MacDuff Avenue	Olney	MD	20832	mjames0198@gmail.com	14	
Christopher	Jeffrey	3345 Tidewater Ct	Olney	MD	20832	cjeffrey@chrisjeffrey.net	14	
Elaine	Kim	16814 Centerfield Way	Olney	MD	20832	elaine2810@gmail.com	14	
Katha	Lacy	2244 Countryside Drive, Silver Spring	Silver Spring	MD	20905	kathalacy@gmail.com	14	
Pooja	Mathur	15101 Briarcliff Manor Way	Burtonsville	MD	20866	pooja_mathur17@yahoo.com	14	
Cynthia	Neil	1501 Castle Cliff Place	Silver Spring	MD	20904	neil.cyn@gmail.com	14	
wayne	nelson	2040 Seattle ave	Silver Spring	MD	20905	waynenelson1955@yahoo.com	14	
Kenneth	Newton	21820 Laytonville Rd	Laytonville, MD	MD	20882	kwillnewton91@gmail.com	14	
Tonny	Nguyen	2525 sutcliff ter brookeville md	Brookeville	MD	20833	stinkyrocks@aol.com	14	
Grace	Parker	24321 Flamingo Terrace	Gaithersburg	MD	20882	bunzieses@yahoo.com	14	
Joyce	Shelton	4521 Mount Olney Lane	Olney	MD	20832	j_i_shelton@hotmail.com	14	
Jeffrey	Spendelow	`141` Galway Drive	Silver Spring	MD	20904	jeffspendelow@hotmail.com	14	
Sohan	Thakkar	14904 Meanderwood Lane	Burtonsville	MD	20866	sohant99@gmail.com	14	
Samir	Thakkar	14904 Meanderwood Lane	Burtonsville	MD	20866	thakkarbiz@gmail.com	14	
Sona	Thakkar	14904 Meanderwood Lane	Burtonsville	MD	20866	sonast93@gmail.com	14	
Simran	Thakkar	14904 Meanderwood Ln	Burtonsville	MD	20866	simrant03@gmail.com	14	
Dhruv		15101 Briarcliff Manor Way	Burtonsville	MD	20866	broncos19dm@yahoo.com	14	
Lynn	White	14 Ranworth Ct	Germantown	MD	20874-6222	lynnkwhite@verizon.net	15	It's time to add environmental rights to our constitution. We need to use every available tool to help stop or slow climate change. Our president is pushing ahead hard to remedy the mistakes people have made over the decades; the mistakes that have created the worst existential threat humans have ever faced. We can't stop or reverse all the tragic consequences we've incurred but we must stop or reverse those we can. Making environmental rights human rights will give Maryland a path to do so.
Kathleen	Horvath	11913 Devilwood Dr	Potomac	MD	20854-3411	katedc1@comcast.net	15	I have planted native species and flowers to feed birds and honeybees. So, two neighbors sprayed for mosquitoes, and the honeybees all died.
Ivano	Battistella	10001 Sterling Ter	Rockville	MD	20850-4626	ivanony@aol.com	15	
Evan	Krichevsky	9205 Copenhaver Dr	Potomac	MD	20854-3016	evank2@aol.com	15	

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Anjali	Agarwal	11204 Green Watch Way	North Potomac	MD	20878-2569	anjalaraviagarwal@gmail.com	15	
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Geoffrey	Kidd	14012 Eternity Rd	Germantown	MD	20874-6105	netgk@hotmail.com	15	
Douglas	Gaum	12908 Scarlet Oak Dr	Gaithersburg	MD	20878-3548	douggaum@verizon.net	15	
Johanna	Wermers	9712 Delamere Ct	Rockville	MD	20850-3729	johannawermers@gmail.com	15	
Ellen	Polishuk	24240 Peach Tree Rd	Clarksburg	MD	20871-9112	ellenorganic@gmail.com	15	
Saqib	Ali	12504 Degas Ct	North Potomac	MD	20878-3438	info@aliformaryland.com	15	
Kate	Sugarman	11909 Enid Dr	Potomac	MD	20854-3457	katesugarman@hotmail.com	15	
Alex	Ochman	11201 Joshua Tree Pl	North Potomac	MD	20878-2588	alexanderochman@yahoo.com	15	
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Moir	Davenport	11700 Flints Grove Ln	Gaithersburg	MD	20878	moiradavenport@gmail.com	15	
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Joan	Goldstein	12605 EXCHANGE CT N	Potomac	MD	20854	djg21@msn.com	15	
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meghana	kotraiah	11713 Flints Grove Lane	Gaithersburg	MD	20878	meghana.kot55@gmail.com	15	
Zander	Leff	15415 Comus Rd	Clarksburg	MD	20871	arkthedragonboy@gmail.com	15	
Frances	Levin	11808 Enid Dr	Potomac	MD	20854	franRlevin@gmail.com	15	
Julia	Lin	13223 Maplecrest Dr	Potomac	MD	20854-6335	julipup@hotmail.com	15	
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Andrea	Pfeffer	11220 Freas Drive	Gaithersburg	MD	20878	pepper4@aol.com	15	
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E M	Samuelson	20105 Lavender Place	Germantown	MD	20874	evamsam@gmail.com	15	
Molly	Sherman	17410 Ryefield Ct	Dickerson	MD	20842-8807	mollysherman@gmail.com	15	
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Owen	Sotak	14966 Dufief Drive	Gaithersburg	MD	20878	owensotak@gmail.com	15	
Anne	Sturm	P.O. Box 341	Barnesville	MD	20838	annets1@aol.com	15	
Daisy	Wang	12142 Cypress Spring Rd	Clarksburg	MD	20871	daisywang0705@gmail.com	15	
Johanna	Wermers	9712 Delamere Ct.	Rockville	MD	20850	johannawermers@gmail.com	15	

Claire	Wolfe	14305 Long Channel Drive	Germantown	MD	20874	c_wolfe2003@yahoo.com	15	
Scott	Young	11116 Pinion Court	Gaithersburg	MD	20878-2565	scott4aves@icloud.com	15	
Olivia	Wiley	14717 Mentmore Pl	North Potomac	MD	20878	olivialwiley@gmail.com	15	
Jennifer	Khovananth	5808 Namakagan Rd	Bethesda	MD	20816-2346	jenhackwith@yahoo.com	16	When I drive in MD I see trash everywhere. I pull it from roads, creeks and rivers. My scout troop helps, my neighbors help. It's too much. Our state, our people deserve better. Our environment needs to be valued, our waste needs to have a value assigned to it so instead of throwing it in the road and having it in the rivers it is returned for cash. The majority of the waste we pick up is recyclable (cans, bottles, plastic). As a child in IL we grew up picking up tossed cans to earn extra money. It helped our family and the environment. Providing middleman buyers of recyclables or providing a deposit / return program will benefit many.
Jo	Borsh	6219 Walhonding Rd	Bethesda	MD	20816-2138	joejthga@verizon.net	16	This is a no-brainer! We must do this for our state and our earth- for ourselves, our children, and their children!
Nancy	Shaw	7817 Tomlinson Ave	Cabin John	MD	20818-1306	nbsshaw@aol.com	16	The time is right for this to be done.
Randy	Lyon	5901 Woodacres Dr	Bethesda	MD	20816-3429	randylyon1@msn.com	16	Thank you so much for participating in this week's Sierra Club lobby night with fellow constituents from District 16. I just wanted to call to your attention this bill for an amendment to Maryland's constitution, which we did not get a chance to highlight. I think the proposed amendment articulates important principles and I hope we have your support on it. I think it has the potential to help change the way people view the environment so that we as a state and nation do a better job building environmental protection into our policies and actions. Many thanks for your consideration and hopefully support! Randy Lyon
Francesca	Grifo	5307 Carlton St	Bethesda	MD	20816-2304	francescatgrifo@gmail.com	16	So important for our future! Clean air, clean water, no toxics, ecojustice for all!!
Lisa	Jordan	9517 Old Georgetown Rd	Bethesda	MD	20814-1723	lisajordan76@verizon.net	16	Please take this next important step to ensure a safe and supportive environment for all.
Lisa	Hemmer	5204 Wehawken Rd	Bethesda	MD	20816-3132	lisakay.hemmer@gmail.com	16	Please do this. The environment -- and its climate impacts -- should be monetized in decision making just as other things are monetized.
Kimbelry	Belvin	10815 Swains Lock Rd	Potomac	MD	20854-1235	kimbelvin@ymail.com	16	It is time to implement environmental justice to ensure the all people have clean air to breath, clean water to drink and health land in which to grow. Maryland will prosper if it's waters, land and air are protected.
Rita	Torkzadeh	7500 Woodmont Ave Apt 413	Bethesda	MD	20814-5365	ritork@hotmail.com	16	I've been concerned about construction impacts on the environment, which also applies to urban areas like downtown Bethesda where large old trees and green spaces have been eliminated in favor of multiple development projects that have added traffic and pollution. I would expect a Maryland Environments Human Rights law would cover urban and rural areas alike.
Kamil	Cook	4800 Crescent St	Bethesda	MD	20816-1706	kamilpcook@gmail.com	16	I support this bill because Clean water is the foundation of healthy and thriving communities. Maryland is an increasingly diverse state and it is essential that the voices of historically disadvantaged communities take center stage in our decision making processes.
Frances	Stewart	4407 Maple Ave	Bethesda	MD	20814-4732	frances.stewart6@gmail.com	16	Environmental rights are human rights.
Ann	Gallagher	5906 Cobalt Rd	Bethesda	MD	20816-1118	agm@saltywaters.org	16	Environmental issues need appropriate constitutional recognition!
Robert & Naira	Darius	6011 Conway Rd	Bethesda	MD	20817-3430	dariustrio@gmail.com	16	
Naomi	Weisman	7318 Greentree Rd	Bethesda	MD	20817-1552	marketqn@verizon.net	16	
Patrick	Reilly	5212 Wilson Ln	Bethesda	MD	20814-2408	patrickreilly44@gmail.com	16	
Walter	Failace	11708 Ibsen Dr	Rockville	MD	20852-3724	wjfailace@gmail.com	16	
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Gayle	Countryman-Mills	11906 Oden Ct	Rockville	MD	20852-4341	gaylelcm@gmail.com	16	
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Todd	Epstein	11305 Struttmann Ter	Rockville	MD	20852-3674	doctae@icloud.com	16	
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Alison	Bennett	10908 PICASSO LN	POTOMAC	MD	20854	alison.bennett72@gmail.com	16	
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Luca	Grifo-Hahn	5307 Carlton Street	Bethesda	MD	20816	lucagh123@gmail.com	16	
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Sarah	O'Donnell	Midhill	Bethesda	MD	20817	seodonnell21@gmail.com	16	
Geshan	Pathirana	5301 Westbard Circle apt 340	Bethesda	MD	20816	geshanpathirana@gmail.com	16	
Rebecca	Petillo	4105 Maryland Ave	Bethesda	MD	20816	rebeccajp44@gmail.com	16	
Ezra	Pine	6608 Kenhill Road	Bethesda	MD	20817	pine.ezra@gmail.com	16	
Sandra	Robinson	6404 Ridge Dr	Bethesda	MD	20816	granitesong@aol.com	16	
Gavin	Ross	5425 Mohican Rd	Bethesda	MD	20816	gavin.f.ross@gmail.com	16	
Barton	Rubenstein	4819 Dorset Ave	Chevy Chase	MD	20815	bartsher@gmail.com	16	
Rossana	San Martin	5708 Chapman Mill Rd, 400	Rockville	MD	20852	rossanas007@gmail.com	16	
Fred	Scherlinder Dobb	7727 Persimmon Tree Lane	Bethesda	MD	20817	rabbifred@aol.com	16	
Richard	Schubert	7117 Darby Road, Bethesda MD	Bethesda	MD	20817	groundbeetle@aol.com	16	
Elizabeth	Seward	10809 Rock Run Drvie	Potomac	MD	20854	trina65@verizon.net	16	
Josh	Silver	6503 Marjory lane	Bethesda	MD	20817	kathyjosh@comcast.net	16	
Dolores Silva	Smith	4936 Sentinel Dr., Apt. 305, Bethesda Maryland	Bethesda	MD	20816	dsilvasmith@comcast.net	16	
Joan	Starr	5610 Wisconsin Ave	Chevy Chase	MD	20815	drjmstarr@comcast.net	16	
Frances	Stewart	4407 Maple Ave.	Bethesda	MD	20814	frances.stewart6@gmail.com	16	
Teri	Tomlin	6403 Ridge Dr	Bethesda	MD	20816	teritomlin2@gmail.com	16	
Leslie	Wharton	4978 Sentinel Drive #501	Bethesda	MD	20816	leslie.b.wharton@gmail.com	16	
Nanci	Wilkinson	5502 Glenwood Rd	Bethesda	MD	20817	nanciwilkinson@gmail.com	16	
Victoria	Yepez	8603 Maryland Avenue	Bethesda	MD	20814	victoriayepez60@gmail.com	16	
David	Bowen	8609 Ewing Drive	Bethesda	MD	20817	dhmbowen@yahoo.com	16	
Evelyn	Ralston		Bethesda	MD	20817	evelynsralston@gmail.com	16	
David	Mosher	15 Mirrasou Ln	Gaithersburg	MD	20878-4117	davidmosher1@yahoo.com	17	This Amendment defines an important guiding principle for present and future MD administrations. It is a powerful statement that social equity regarding a healthy environment and equal access to natural places is an important consideration of MD government.
Susan	Albertine	1513 Defoe St	Rockville	MD	20850-2932	albertines@verizon.net	17	This amendment can be a source of restorative justice for both people and the environment. That is why I support it

Rachel	Hopp	1371 Main St	Gaithersburg	MD	20878-6508	jaybird2064@gmail.com	17	Please pass this bill and let the voters vote on it in November!
Carole	Excell	746 College Pkwy	Rockville	MD	20850-1929	cexcell@wri.org	17	I want my kids to grow up in a clean and healthy environment free with clean air and water and I want that for all the communities in Maryland especially Black , Indigenous, and People of Colour
Chuck	Woolery	315 Dean Dr	Rockville	MD	20851-1144	chuck@igc.org	17	Corporations have rights? Why not the environment that provides all of us, including corporations, with the raw materials needed for both health and wealth. We either follow the "Laws of Nature and Nature's God." or pay the fines in lives and dollars.
Shannon	Shea	70 Moore Dr	Rockville	MD	20850-1230	shannonbshea@gmail.com	17	All people - current and future - need to have the right to a healthy environment. Our environmental, social, and economic sustainability relies on our natural surroundings and being able to use them in an equitable, safe way. My children and all children need to be able to rely on the natural systems functioning in the same way we do today, now and into the future.
Phoenix	Lee	28 Oak Shade Rd	Gaithersburg	MD	20878-1046	thefierypanda87@outlook.com	17	
Allen	Yun	1613 Auburn Ave	Rockville	MD	20850-1143	yunschubert@gmail.com	17	
Phillip	Barsky	17609 Parkridge Dr	Gaithersburg	MD	20878-1114	phillipbarsky@gmail.com	17	
Jimmy	Li	443 Palmtree Dr	Gaithersburg	MD	20878-2963	jimmy.jiajian.li@gmail.com	17	
Patricia	Tice	1615C Piccard Dr Unit 1425	Rockville	MD	20850-6729	ptice17@gmail.com	17	
Beth	Levine	282 New Mark Esplanade	Rockville	MD	20850-2733	dancingbl@aol.com	17	
Robert	Parker	1204 Broadwood Dr	Rockville	MD	20851-2111	robandlezlye@hushmail.com	17	
Ken	Ayres	105 Dale Dr	Rockville	MD	20850-2814	ken_ayres@yahoo.com	17	
Robert	Cashman	805 Reserve Champion Dr	Rockville	MD	20850-6645	rnc110647@aol.com	17	
Max	Sanborn	303 Woodland Rd	Rockville	MD	20850-1601	cuff4317@yahoo.com	17	
Dwight	Alpern	2520 Oakenshield Dr	Rockville	MD	20854-2987	alperndwight@aol.com	17	
David	Bruening	515 N Homers Ln	Rockville	MD	20850-1250	davidbruening@verizon.net	17	
Camilla	Day	6 Gerard Ct	Rockville	MD	20850-2936	daycamilla@hotmail.com	17	
Steve	Breyman	605 Linthicum St	Rockville	MD	20851-1506	stevebreyman@icloud.com	17	
Alexandra	Kunkel	113 Ellington Blvd Apt 589	Gaithersburg	MD	20878-4544	akunkel7@gmail.com	17	
Sue	Jacobson	8 Lodge Pl	Rockville	MD	20850-3042	suejacobson2@gmail.com	17	
Elizabeth	Moore	311 Cedar Ave	Gaithersburg	MD	20877-1904	moore.betsy@gmail.com	17	
Linda	Silversmith	260 New Mark Esplanade	Rockville	MD	20850-2733	lindas@capaccess.org	17	
Victoria	Crawford	639 Azalea Dr	Rockville	MD	20850-2005	v.crawford639@gmail.com	17	
Megan	Tarr	263 Congressional Ln	Rockville	MD	20852-5302	mgnttr@gmail.com	17	
Alexandra	Bell	703 Maple Avenue	Rockville	MD	20850-1530	alexbell55@hotmail.com	17	
Deborah	Berlyne	717 Marshall Avenue	Rockville	MD	20851	djberlyne@gmail.com	17	
Josephine	Cox	1114 Agnew Drive	Rockville	MD	20851	jobird11@gmail.com	17	
David	Davis	1118 Edmonston Drive	Rockville	MD	20851	da5id.da5is@gmail.com	17	
Bridget	Donnell Newton	10 Dale Drive	Rockville	MD	20850	BDNDG@aol.com	17	
Jessica	Emami	1371 Main Street	Gaithersburg	MD	20878	jessica@sociologist.us	17	
JAMES	FLEMING	41 Orchard Way S, Rockville, MD	Potomac	MD	20854	jameshffleming@gmail.com	17	
Alexa	Fraser	503 Mannakee St.	Rockville	MD	20850	ahf@jobst.com	17	
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Antony	Heatwole	24 Courthouse Square 710	Rockville	MD	20850	ajheatwole@gmail.com	17	
Eduardo	Hernandez	800 E. Kimberly Court	Gaithersburg	MD	20878	edhernandez52@gmail.com	17	
Rachel	Hopp	1371 Main St	Gaithersburg	MD	20878	rhopp@ecolaw.com	17	
Toni	Hudson	214 Tulip Dr.	Gaithersburg	MD	20877	johudson@erols.com	17	

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Barry	Kemelhor	502 Mannakee Street	Rockville	MD	20850	baliboy@aol.com	17	
Saul	Kravitz	1386 Stratton Dr	Potomac	MD	20854	saul.kravitz@gmail.com	17	
Beri	Kravitz	1386 Stratton Dr	Potomac	MD	20854	beri.kravitz@gmail.com	17	
Melanie	Mason	(15 Oak Knoll Drive	Rockville	MD	20850	mmband2000@aol.com	17	
MARTHA	MORRIS	919 GRAND CHAMPION DR	Rockville	MD	208505256	mamorris1123@verizon.net	17	
Anne	Mytych	1114 Parrish Drive	Rockville	MD	20851	AMTYCH@YAHOO.COM	17	
Paul	O'Brien	12 S Duke St, Rockville, MD	Rockville	MD	20850-1014	pobrien776@aol.com	17	
Vlada	P	9908 Killarney Ln Apt 203	Gaithersburg	MD	20877	Vladap95@gmail.com	17	
Suriii	Patel	214 Hidden Forest Court	Gaithersburg	MD	20877	surili.sutaria@gmail.com	17	
Jordan	Polycranos	80B Bureau Dr	Gaithersburg	MD	20878	jpolycra23@gmail.com	17	
Norman	Rave	545 Anderson Avenue	Rockville	MD	20850	n.rave@verizon.net	17	
Tara	Rice	353 Market St W	Gaithersburg	MD	20878	taramrice@yahoo.com	17	
Tara	Rice	353 Market St W	Gaithersburg	MD	20878	ricet878@gmail.com	17	
Rebecca	St John	12 Bradenton Court	Gaithersburg, Md	MD	20878	beckie.greendrinks@gmail.com	17	
Rebecca	St John	12 Bradenton Ct	Gaithersburg	MD	20878	beccarita2002@yahoo.com	17	
Molly	Stamets	701 Smallwood Rd	Rockville	MD	20850	mollystamets@gmail.com	17	
Michael	Stern	5 Hardwicke Place	Rockville	MD	20850	mpstern@erols.com	17	
Bettina	Thompson	406 Inspiration Ln	Gaithersburg	MD	20878	teamthompson43@gmail.com	17	
Patricia	Tice	1615C Piccard Drive	Rockville	MD	20850	ptice17@gmail.com	17	
Justin	Tritinger	203 Rabbitt Road	Gaithersburg	MD	20878	jttritnum@gmail.com	17	
Aaron	Ucko	503 Pleasant Dr	Rockville	MD	20850	amu@alum.mit.edu	17	
Anna	Urciolo	8 Leyton Ct	Rockville	MD	20850	anna.urciolo@gmail.com	17	
Adam	Young	680 Orchard Ridge Dr Unit 200	Gaithersburg	MD	20878-5862	young.adam.b@gmail.com	17	
Margie	Glazer	11710 Old Georgetown Rd	Rockville	MD	20852-2653	margieglazer@hotmail.com	18	We all have a g-d given right to clean air, water and environment. Please keep your promise to us.
Jonah	Sah	7707 Wisconsin Ave Apt 912	Bethesda	MD	20814-6555	mirele@markergoldsmith.com	18	Our constitution is out of date. In the last two years I contracted Lyme Disease and went to the emergency room with heat exhaustion. Climate change is a factor in both of these health problems. As climate change accelerated we need to make it clear that protecting everyone's health and safety is a priority of our state, now and forever.
John	Laytham	3314 Coquelin Ter	Chevy Chase	MD	20815-4803	jjgibblaytham@hotmail.com	18	My biggest fear from the time I wake up to the time I go to sleep, is that my children will face misery, hopelessness, chaos and death as our planet heats up, plastics clog their bloodstream, chemicals in our plastics, foods, etc., destroy their hormones and lower their intelligence and lifespans and they lose access to food as we face ecological collapse ob every front. They are too young to have voting rights and determine their futures legislatively, despite being the ones who will bear the burden of choices we make now. That is why we must establish, and I plead with utmost and immediate urgency, their fundamental right to clean air, water, land and a habitable climate.
Jennifer	Freedman	4204 Knowles Ave	Kensington	MD	20895-2407	joelrahana@aol.com	18	If we don't protect our environment we will have nothing; a clean environment is a basic human right!
Erika	Drazen	2311 Arthur Ave	Silver Spring	MD	20902-5601	erikadrazen@gmail.com	18	I work in international environmental conservation and sustainable development, and believe that access to a healthy environment and associated ecosystem services is a human right that needs to be promoted at home as well as abroad. As a Montgomery County, MD resident, I support this constitutional amendment, and would love to be proud of my state for passing it.

Lesley	Frost	7707 Wisconsin Ave Apt 138	Bethesda	MD	20814-6535	lesleyfrost0@gmail.com	18	Environmental protection must be one of the highest priorities for our government to ensure a healthy future for all our grandchildren.
Jennie	Gosche	3333 University Blvd W Apt 309	Kensington	MD	20895-1833	polarbearpals@gmail.com	18	Climate change and the polluting of our planet is the greatest threat to wildlife and humans. Please focus on Environmental Human Rights in the state of Maryland.
Caroline	Witkop	8827 McGregor Dr	Chevy Chase	MD	20815-4709	carriewitkop@gmail.com	18	Clean water, uncontaminated food and pesticide free soil matters to each one of us in Maryland. A clean environment will save our health and keep us out of the health care system saving millions of dollars in health care. It is also extremely important to save the diversity of plants and animals in our state which are already being stressed with climate change. The environment is simply the biggest social justice issue there is and it needs to be prioritized . Water is life.
Molly	Hauck	3900 Decatur Ave	Kensington	MD	20895-1531	mollyphauck@gmail.com	18	
Betsy	Johnson	4413 Ridge St	Chevy Chase	MD	20815-5225	betsy_johnson@comcast.net	18	
Donna	Sawyer	2213 Clark Pl	Silver Spring	MD	20902-5638	donnaicsawyer@gmail.com	18	
Rufino	Velazquez	12732 Veirs Mill Rd Apt 303	Rockville	MD	20853-3561	rufino@duck.com	18	
Kit	Mason	1508 Sanford Rd	Silver Spring	MD	20902-3931	kitmason@gmail.com	18	
Ryan	Costello	1609 Ladd St	Silver Spring	MD	20902-3520	rn.costello@gmail.com	18	
Donald	Byrne	3936 Rickover Rd	Silver Spring	MD	20902-2329	donbyrne@donbyrne.com	18	
Jessica	Napper	4412 Bennion Rd	Silver Spring	MD	20906-4652	safety_pin79@hotmail.com	18	
Andrea	Boyarsky-Maisel	7105 45th St	Chevy Chase	MD	20815-6034	evesapples.abm@icloud.com	18	
Barbara	Wilson	4607 Woodfield Rd	Bethesda	MD	20814-4043	barbara.wilson.105@gmail.com	18	
Maggie	Taylor	12403 Village Square Ter Apt 401	Rockville	MD	20852-1945	magthecat1@yahoo.com	18	
Joy	Kreskow	10704 Malone St	Silver Spring	MD	20902-3755	joykreskow@netzero.com	18	
Anne	Manuel	2021 Luzerne Ave	Silver Spring	MD	20910-2134	nightsky11@verizon.net	18	
Anne	Rush	10421 Ewell Ave	Kensington	MD	20895-4028	annesprush@gmail.com	18	
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Gail	Anderson	2412 Dexter Ave, Silver Spring	Silver Spring	MD	20902	gfanderson@umaryland.edu	18	
Graham	Baird	3203 Pauline Dr	Chevy Chase	MD	20815	grahambaird27@gmail.com	18	
Dorothy	Brown	2445 Lyttonville Rd. Apt. 816	Silver Spring	MD	20910	deabr6@gmail.com	18	
Nadia	Carrell	7917 Chelton Road	Bethesda	MD	20814	carrelln@gmail.com	18	
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Michael	Delp	4322 Clearbrook Lane	Kensington	MD	20895	mikedelp622@yahoo.com	18	
Sarah	Demarest	7102 Meadow Lane	Chevy Chase	MD	20815	bealesarah@gmail.com	18	
Nelson	Diaz	4316 Robert court	Silver Spring	MD	20906	nbdiaz@loyola.edu	18	
Carol	Ehrlich	3203 McComas Ave	Kensington	MD	20895	carol_ehrlich@yahoo.com	18	
Amanda	Farber	7903 Kentucky Ave	Bethesda	MD	20814	amandafarber@hotmail.com	18	
Dan	Furmansky	1524 Hanby Street	Silver Spring	MD	20902	danfurmansky@gmail.com	18	
Donald M.	Goldberg	3405 Shepherd St.	Chevy Chase	MD	20815	donald@clpproject.org	18	
Jane	Hartquist	3801 Raymond Street	Chevy Chase	MD	20815	jhartquist@aol.com	18	
Deborah	Hinton	4704 Strathmore Ave	Garrett Park	MD	20896	debahinton@gmail.com	18	
Elizabeth	Kingery	9709 Elrod Road	Kensington	MD	20895	erkingery@gmail.com	18	
Lindsey	Kopacz	10257 Green Holly Terrace	Silver Spring	MD	20902	lindsey.kopacz@gmail.com	18	

Marge	Kumaki	1503 Woodman Avenue	Silver Spring	MD	20902	mkumaki1446@gmail.com	18	
Nancy	Longo	9610 Barroll Lane	Kensington	MD	20895	longo.nancy@gmail.com	18	
Kira	Lueders	10112 Wildwood Rd, Kensington	Kensington	MD	20895	kklarl@yahoo.com	18	
Robin	Megibow	4113 Decatur Avenue	Kensington	MD	20895	rmegibow@mindspring.com	18	
Kathleen	Michels	1701 Ladd St	Silver Spring	MD	20902	michelskm2016@gmail.com	18	
Lynn	Parsons	10612 MONTROSE AVE APT 102,	Bethesda	MD	20814	lynn.parsons@outlook.com	18	
Suzanne	Picard	4400 Bramber Street	Kensington	MD	20895	suzannepicard@msn.com	18	
Nathan	Pratt	3609, Raymond Street	Chevy Chase	MD	20815	nathanmpratt@gmail.com	18	
Dorcas	Robinson	8305 Meadowbrook Lane	Chevy Chase	MD	20815	dorcasrobinson@yahoo.com	18	
Rachael	Rose	11213 Watermill Ln	Silver Spring	MD	20902	rachaelcrose@gmail.com	18	
Miguel	Salgado	1605 Forest Glen Rd	Silver Spring	MD	20910	msalgado96@gmail.com	18	
Ann	Scher	10101 Meredith Ave.	Silver Spring	MD	20910	ann.scher1@varilog.com	18	
Palchen	Wangchuk	11910 Coronada Pl	Kensington	MD	20895	palchen95@gmail.com	18	
Robert	Wicks	1700 Noyes Lane	Silver Spring	MD	20910-2226	Robert.Wicks@rcn.com	18	
patricia	yeghissian	2002 Rookwood	Silver Spring	MD	20910	pyeghissian@gmail.com	18	
Lisa	Max	10700 Kenilworth Ave	Garrett Park	MD	20896	lisakmax@gma.com	18	
Ethan	Hamza	4719 Saul Rd	Kensington	MD	20895-4252	grabbb.hamza@gmail.com	18	
Natali	Fani-Gonzalez	2213 Parker Ave	Wheaton	MD	20902-1932	natalifanigonalez@gmail.com	19	We have the responsibility of protecting our planet.
Anne	Ambler	12505 Kuhl Rd	Wheaton	MD	20902-1443	anambler@gmail.com	19	We cannot afford to wait any longer.
Claire	Peterson	7825 Rydal Ter	Derwood	MD	20855-2058	cspeterson84@gmail.com	19	Philosophy informs us that the more sophisticated (and crowded) a society becomes, the more rules are needed to govern and protect the society and all our needs. So, we need to have and therefore pass the MD Constitutional Amendment For Environmental Human Rights & Put it on The Ballot in 2022 especially since we are such a terribly wonderful diverse society; and may we continue all of that.
Olivia	Bartlett	14300 Gaines Ave	Rockville	MD	20853-2155	carol_amburgey@yahoo.com	19	Imagine if you family has to drink brown water every time they turn on the tap. Or your daughter develops asthma from the dirty factory down the street. Everyone has the right for a healthy environment and clean water.
Andrew	Levin	14128 Grand Pre Rd Apt 43	Silver Spring	MD	20906-2855	epiphanysyndicate@gmail.com	19	
Natasha	Shangold	5917 Willow Knoll Dr	Derwood	MD	20855-1645	nlshangold2014@gmail.com	19	
Ken	Funabashi	5723 Dimes Rd	Derwood	MD	20855-1726	consumerpurchases@me.com	19	
Maria	Szokolai	14210 Parkvale Rd	Rockville	MD	20853-2528	mnfarkas@yahoo.com	19	
Barbara	Gifford	1909 Hickory Hill Ln	Silver Spring	MD	20906-5809	giffordbas@gmail.com	19	
Bonnie	Svec	4511 Woodlark Pl	Rockville	MD	20853-2753	fruitcakes101@aol.com	19	
Jean-Pierre	Moundou	14609 Tynewick Ter	Silver Spring	MD	20906-2668	moundouj@gmail.com	19	
Katherine	White	17705 Hollingsworth Dr	Derwood	MD	20855-1306	kcwd50@hotmail.com	19	
Elaine	Preston	4624 Wissahican Ave	Rockville	MD	20853-3148	eljobarry@aol.com	19	
Jennifer	Rossmere	14134 Flint Rock Rd	Rockville	MD	20853-2653	jayrossmere@gmail.com	19	
Janice	McLean	3330 N Leisure World Blvd	Silver Spring	MD	20906-5622	janicewmclean@gmail.com	19	
James	Togashi	3959 Wendy Ct	Silver Spring	MD	20906-5270	jtogashi@hotmail.com	19	
Robyn	Kenney	13822 Turnmore Rd	Silver Spring	MD	20906-2134	rkenney6@gmail.com	19	
Devin	Battley	5729 Artesian Dr	Derwood	MD	20855-2435	dbattley@battley.com	19	
Brian	Gross	13253 Redspire Dr	Silver Spring	MD	20906-6740	briangross.home@verizon.net	19	
Scott	Okrent	1717 Woodwell Rd	Silver Spring	MD	20906-2051	scottokrent@yahoo.com	19	
Gail	Landy	17600 Silver Dollar Ct	Gaithersburg	MD	20877-4237	ag7dollar@msn.com	19	

Susan	Joplin	1009 Loxford Ter	Silver Spring	MD	20901-1128	sujop30@aol.com	19	
David	Johnson	7101 Mill Run Dr	Derwood	MD	20855-1208	davidmichaeljohnson@comcast.net	19	
Rakhee	Goyal	4609 Brightwood Rd	Olney	MD	20832-1853	rakheegoyal@hotmail.com	19	
Kathryn	Brown	7024 Needwood Rd	Derwood	MD	20855	ktbnurse@gmail.com	19	
Ken	Falk	13803 Congress Drive	Rockville	MD	20853	Kenfalk1@gmail.com	19	
Karen	Falk	13903 Congress Drive	Rockville	MD	20853	karenfalk@gmail.com	19	
Beatrice	Grabowski	1306 Alderton Lane, Silver Spring	Silver Spring	MD	20906	bgrabows@gmail.com	19	
Brenna	Henderson	18207 Bluebell Lane	Olney	MD	20832	brennahendo@gmail.com	19	
Emilye	Hill	16513 Baederwood Lane	Derwood	MD	20855	emilyehill2@verizon.net	19	
Lauren	Hubbard	17817 Hollingsworth Dr	Derwood	MD	20855	laurenhubbard100@gmail.com	19	
Peter	Huffman	2025 Henderson Avenue	Silver Spring	MD	20902	pdhuffman@gmail.com	19	
Fernanda	Huffman	2025 Henderson Avenue	Silver Spring	MD	20902	ferhuffman@gmail.com	19	
Anne	Kelley	15321 Narcissus Way	Rockville	MD	20853	alkeymar@gmail.com	19	
Susan	Levine	15100 Interlachen Drive #204	Silver Spring	MD	20906	llevine101@aol.com	19	
Dawn	Praske	7826 Brink Rd	Gaithersburg	MD	20882	dpraske@comcast.net	19	
Julia	Watts Belser	14400 Butternut Ct	Rockville	MD	20853	jwb84@georgetown.edu	19	
Frank	Witebsky	1300 Alderton Lane	Silver Spring	MD	20906	fwitebsky@verizon.net	19	
Simone	Fary	716 Chesapeake Ave	Silver Spring	MD	20910-5206	simone@nerdsmakemedia.com	20	Let's make Maryland a leader in this. Every day and every action we can do helps slow down the devastation of climate change.
Nick	Hall	716 Chesapeake Ave	Silver Spring	MD	20910-5206	nick.hall455@gmail.com	20	I think of the right to a livable environment and a well-functioning ecosystem as a 'keystone right'. Without it, our other rights (life, liberty, pursuit of happiness, etc...) are all imperiled or meaningless. Since our laws and other guarantees of rights were written, we've learned much more about ecology, and our ecological life-support system has become so much more threatened. The state can and should prioritize sustainability and environmental health in everything it does, and an amendment adding environmental rights to our state constitution is an excellent way to signal that and invite accountability.
Joanna	Slaney	610 McNeill Rd	Silver Spring	MD	20910-5541	joannaslaney@gmail.com	20	I support this amendment because I want to make sure my children, and all children in Maryland, are guaranteed a fundamental right to clean air, water, land, and healthful, sustainable environment. This is basic.
James	Riley	514 Mansfield Rd	Silver Spring	MD	20910-5516	ajriley514@verizon.net	20	Humans benefit from a good business AND a good health environment.
Tamara	Zuniga	8553 11th Ave	Silver Spring	MD	20903-3202	tszuniga03@gmail.com	20	Future generations deserve to see that we DID care for our environment, that we DID do everything we could in order to preserve and protect it and that they DESERVE a habitable and sustained healthy environment. We owe it to our future selves, our future children, our future environment, to pass this amendment.
Sean	Bath	8221 Garland Ave	Silver Spring	MD	20912-6883	scnbath@gmail.com	20	From my home in Silver Spring, Maryland -- a home I share with the likes of Rachel Carson -- I work on a federal program that helps people across the nation adapt to the climate change. Compared to the scale of the impacts we face, we are running behind the critical need for all-of-community planning for climate and extreme weather impacts to our communities and ecosystems. Our models of governance, built as they were for 18th century life, are inadequate for protecting our environment. The opportunity to add Environmental Human Rights to our state's Constitution would be one small adaptation step of our own. With an amendment, we could signal the priority that environmental sustainability is for the people of Maryland. We could set a precedent that becomes a legal imperative for a clean, prosperous future.

Aram	Sinnreich	9621 Lorain Ave	Silver Spring	MD	20901-3249	aramsinnreich@gmail.com	20	Environmental rights are one of the most pressing matters in this century. I don't want my children to live in a world where Marylanders are disproportionately forced to bear the brunt of our bad decisions about energy and waste.
Mary	Slaughter	9101 Eton Rd # 0	Silver Spring	MD	20901-4901	mks.outside@gmail.com	20	
Joan	Murtagh	7115 Garland Ave	Takoma Park	MD	20912-6421	padlr2@hotmail.com	20	
Alice	Van Buren	8901 Walden Rd	Silver Spring	MD	20901-3824	alicevanburen@gmail.com	20	
Darcy	Sessions	804 Kennebec Ave Apt 1	Takoma Park	MD	20912-3839	thedarstar@gmail.com	20	
Keeli	Sorensen	7333 New Hampshire Ave Apt 812	Takoma Park	MD	20912-6965	keeliasorensen@gmail.com	20	
Ann	Wakefield	8019 Eastern Ave Apt 104	Silver Spring	MD	20910-3110	annwakefield@hotmail.com	20	
Randi	Field	9307 Long Branch Pkwy	Silver Spring	MD	20901-3644	scribers@verizon.net	20	
Joan	Clement	506 Elm Ave	Takoma Park	MD	20912-5434	joanpclement11@gmail.com	20	
Sarah	Peters	1401 Blair Mill Rd Apt 618	Silver Spring	MD	20910-4819	petesa05@gmail.com	20	
Michael	Italiano	7209 13th Ave	Takoma Park	MD	20912-7069	michael.italiano@gmail.com	20	
Nina	Jeffries	417 Boston Ave	Takoma Park	MD	20912-4106	nikjeff@umd.edu	20	
Jackie	Frank	15 Ellsworth Heights St	Silver Spring	MD	20910-4314	jackiemfrank@gmail.com	20	
Emily	Glazer	9225 Wendell St	Silver Spring	MD	20901-3533	emglazer@gmail.com	20	
Brian	Roberts	10504 Calumet Dr	Silver Spring	MD	20901-4608	bhr1138@gmail.com	20	
Heidi	Strom Moon	10017 Sidney Rd	Silver Spring	MD	20901-2138	heidi@heidistrom.com	20	
Laura	Welch	7118 Cedar Ave	Takoma Park	MD	20912-4252	laurawelch123@gmail.com	20	
Brian	Roberts	10504 Calumet Dr	Silver Spring	MD	20901-4608	brian.camila@gmail.com	20	
Clarisse	Holman	9809 Dilston Rd	Silver Spring	MD	20903-1921	cholma8@wgu.edu	20	
Mimi	Brody	102 Fleetwood Ter	Silver Spring	MD	20910-5511	mbrody@hslf.org	20	
Laura	Briskin-Limehouse	9617 Clearview Pl	Silver Spring	MD	20901-2902	alethea.briskin@gmail.com	20	
James	Ross	12805 Hammonton Rd	Silver Spring	MD	20904-3524	jimbo59516@aol.com	20	
Marina	TRUE	707 Chaney Dr	Takoma Park	MD	20912-6363	truebluetwo@earthlink.net	20	
John	Morotta	102 Park Ave	Takoma Park	MD	20912-4311	john.marottajr@gmail.com	20	
Megan	Lankenau	757 Silver Spring Ave	Silver Spring	MD	20910-4662	meg24an@yahoo.com	20	
Brianna	Gerondale	8715 1st Ave Apt 1527C	Silver Spring	MD	20910-3551	briannalynn11@gmail.com	20	
Glen	Worrell	9210 Summit Rd	Silver Spring	MD	20910-4132	glenbikeraa@yahoo.com	20	
Jacob	Hutter	7109 Central Ave	Takoma Park	MD	20912-6454	realdjing@protonmail.com	20	
Susan	Klein	7101 Sycamore Ave	Takoma Park	MD	20912-4634	dbpactman@aol.com	20	
Peter	Thomas	9008 Fairview Rd	Silver Spring	MD	20910-4105	neversinkthesecond@gmail.com	20	
Lauren	Achstatter	1400 east west hwy	Silver Spring	MD	20910	lachstatter@gmail.com	20	
cheryl	barnds	8001 maple ave	Takoma Park	MD	20912	risewiththesea@gmail.com	20	
Sofia	Betancourt	200 Franklin Ave	Silver Spring	MD	20901	sofiasabbatical@gmail.com	20	
Julie	Boddy	7314 Baltimore Ave	Takoma Park	MD	20912	juliemboddy@gmail.com	20	
Erica	Bollerud	601 Hudson Ave #309	Takoma Park	MD	20912	erica.bollerud@gmail.com	20	
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Jessica	Castro	7923 EASTERN AVE, APT 506	Silver Spring	MD	20910	jrubano1107@gmail.com	20	
Juliana	CHENUE	7401 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVE, APT 307	Takoma Park	MD	20912	jchenue@yahoo.com	20	
Marianne	Comfort	9125 Saffron Lane	Silver Spring	MD	20901	mariannecomfort@yahoo.com	20	
Abigail	Conrad	714 Auburn Ave	Takoma Park	MD	20912	abigail.conrad@gmail.com	20	
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Briana	Feinberg	1220 EAST WEST HWY	Silver Spring	MD	20910	brianafeinberg@gmail.com	20	

Siena	Fouse	9419 Wire Ave	Silver Spring	MD	20901	sfouse@umaryland.edu	20	
Barbara	Francisco	8904 GLENVILLE RD	Silver Spring	MD	20901	bfrancisco81@yahoo.com	20	
DONNA	FRANKLIN	12309 LIMA DRIVE	SILVER SPRING	MD	20904	DONNABFRANKLIN@GMAIL.COM	20	
Ethan	Ginyard	202 Normandy Drive	Silver Spring	MD	20901	ethanbg202@gmail.com	20	
Carolyn N	Guthrie	6610 Cockerille Avenue	Takoma Park	MD	20912	salad_spoked_0y@icloud.com	20	
Teressa	Healy	8455 Fenton Street	Silver Spring	MD	20910	healyt@jhu.edu	20	
Barry	Hill	P.O. Box 12363, Silver Spring, MD 20908	Silver Spring	MD	20906	barryhill09@comcast.net	20	
Jessica	Horner	12330 Loft Lane	Silver Spring	MD	20904	trompadorjess@yahoo.com	20	
Susan	Hunt	10705 Tenbrook Drive	Silver Spring	MD	20901	shunt820@yahoo.com	20	
Emilie	Joseph	1703 East West Hwy Apt 105	Silver Spring	MD	20910	haitianpyt@gmail.com	20	
Jessica	Landman	232 Park Avenue	Takoma Park	MD	20912	jlandman@mulland.net	20	
Emily	Less	6443 orchard Ave	Takoma Park	MD	20912	emilyless@yahoo.com	20	
Mara	McCall	8507 Cedar Street	Silver Spring	MD	20910	maragay69@gmail.com	20	
Laurie	McGilvray	7010 Woodland Ave.	Takoma Park	MD	20912	Laurie.McGilvray@gmail.com	20	
Arlene	Montemarano	9704 Lawndale Drive	Silver Spring	MD	20901	mikarl@starpower.net	20	
Walter	Mulbry	7010 Woodland Ave, Takoma Park	Takoma Park	MD	20912	wmulbry@gmail.com	20	
Maisha	Nubah	11 Treetop View Court	Silver Spring	MD	20904	nubahmaisha@gmail.com	20	
Laura	O'Brien	8710 Reading Rd	Silver Spring	MD	20901	lauritaob310@gmail.com	20	
Mary	Peter	7411 Glenside Dr	Takoma Park	MD	20912	mnpeterpan1@gmail.com	20	
Rebecca	Rehr	714 Kerwin Road	Silver Spring	MD	20901	rcrohr@gmail.com	20	
Abigail	Rome	605 Ray Dr.	Silver Spring	MD	20910	abirome2@gmail.com	20	
Judith	Rosenthal	505 Elm Ave	Takoma Park	MD	20912-5433	Judyfrose@aol.com	20	
Carol	Shaffer	407 Elm Avenue	Takoma Park	MD	20912	carol.shaffer@comcast.net	20	
Alison	Shelton	7400 Baltimore Avenue	Takoma Park	MD	20912	ashelton300@yahoo.com	20	
Reuben	Snipper	705 Erie Ave	Takoma Park	MD	20912	rs-pol03@morden-snipper.org	20	
John	Stewart Rukeyse	1401 Blair Mill Rd	Silver Spring	MD	20910	jackrukey@gmail.com	20	
Ivan	Tchoumak	10001 Brunett av	Silver Spring	MD	20901	itchoumak@gmail.com	20	
que	tran	9502 CURRAN RD	Silver Spring	MD	20901	querealtor@gmail.com	20	
que	tran	9502 CURRAN RD	Silver Spring	MD	20901	rauthomanpho@yahoo.com	20	
janette	walters	9906 rogart rd	Silver Spring	MD	20901	janwaltersgreen@gmail.com	20	
Candice	West	1001 Spring St.	Silver Spring	MD	20910	cjw89@sbcglobal.net	20	
Mikayla	Basanese	9303 Mintwood St	Silver Spring	MD	20901	mikayla.appell@gmail.com	20	
Vyas	Gupta	4301 Hartwick Rd # 3201	College Park	MD	20740-3230	vgupta13@terpmail.umd.edu	21	I want children to be able to safely grow old.
Judith	Wang	9118 Autoville Dr	College Park	MD	20740-1304	mrpuhi@yahoo.com	21	EVERYONE has the right to a clean and safe environment.
George	Kramer	7620 Erica Ln	Laurel	MD	20707-3625	gfkramer@comcast.net	21	
John	Martin	4520 Yates Rd	Beltsville	MD	20705-2629	jam101@gmail.com	21	
Robert	Elvander	6215 Forest Mill Ln	Laurel	MD	20707-2709	elgarm@comcast.net	21	
Rachel	Kelton	600 Carroll Ave	Laurel	MD	20707-4018	ramkelton@gmail.com	21	
Angela	Hayes	508 Gladhill Rd	Odenton	MD	21113-1911	amrlcpa@hotmail.com	21	
Leo	Shapiro	6907 Rhode Island Ave	College Park	MD	20740-3713	leoshapiro99@gmail.com	21	
Kim	Moninghoff	7200 Exbury Ct	Laurel	MD	20707-9407	kimitm@aol.com	21	
Glenn	Fyfe	3207 Castleleigh Rd	Beltsville	MD	20705-1005	gafyfe@hotmail.com	21	
Veronica	Salisbury	432 Skyline Ave	Odenton	MD	21113-1506	salisburyveronica@gmail.com	21	

Anthony	Schreiber	7302 Radcliffe Dr	College Park	MD	20740-3024	anthony.schreiber@yahoo.com	21	
Janet	Schlosser	8601 Roaming Ridge Way	Odenton	MD	21113-3916	sunshinejps@comcast.net	21	
Alexa	Bely	6907 Rhode Island Ave	College Park	MD	20740-3713	alexabely99@gmail.com	21	
Barbara	Kludy	606 Moonglow Rd Apt 102	Odenton	MD	21113-2432	ladybug-13@comcast.net	21	
Drew	Fuentes	2508 Pawnee St	Adelphi	MD	20783-1743	drewfuentes416@gmail.com	21	
Georgia	Shropshire	7570 Regents Drive	College Park	MD	20742-0001	gshrop20@terpmail.umd.edu	21	
Savannah	Sitler	6903 Preinkert Dr	College Park	MD	20740-5001	sav.sitler@verizon.net	21	
Ruchir	Raturi	9530 Baltimore Ave	College Park	MD	20740-1322	ruchir.raturi@gmail.com	21	
A	Eleftheriou	2615 Cool Spring Rd	Adelphi	MD	20783-1721	ee0307@gmail.com	21	
Caroline	Anderson	8906 34th Avenue	College Park	MD	20740	carrie.j.anderson6@gmail.com	21	
catherine	aranow	4313 knox rd	College Park	MD	20742	catherine_aranow@yahoo.com	21	
Linda	Aston	15717 Ashland Drive	Laurel	MD	20707	lindaaston19@yahoo.com	21	
Kenneth	Cohen	7305 Birdcherry Lane	Laurel	MD	20707	kvulture@aol.com	21	
Robin	Dax	2494 Amber Orchard Ct E, Unit 203	Odenton	MD	21113	turtle979@yahoo.com	21	
Lenora	Dernoga	6001 Tilghman Drive	Laurel	MD	20707	curlycurlyred@aol.com	21	
Robert	Elvander	6215 Forest Mill Lane	Laurel	MD	20707	elgarm@comcast.net	21	
Drew	Fuentes	2508 PAWNEE ST	Hyattsville	MD	20783	drewfuentes416@gmail.com	21	
Angela	Geiger	411 Laurel Ave	Laurel	MD	20707	angelageiger123@gmail.com	21	
Donna	Graham	8607 Wintergreen Ct., unit 106	Odenton	MD	21113	donna_graham@verizon.net	21	
Vyas	Gupta	4301 Hartwick Road #3201, Appt 3201B	College Park	MD	20740	vgupta13@terpmail.umd.edu	21	
Brian	Hinman	7402 Doublerock Ct	Laurel	MD	20707	brihin64@gmail.com	21	
Mike	Hunninghake	7480 Preinkert Drive	College Park	MD	20742	mikeh75@umd.edu	21	
Robert	Jackson	3152 Gracefield Rd Apt 114	Silver Spring	MD	20904	bobjackson716@gmail.com	21	
Daly	johnson	8150 baltimore ave	College Park	MD	20740	dalyjohnson2@gmail.com	21	
camryn	kirk	4313 knox road apt 102 college park md	College Park	MD	20740	cammydoodles@gmail.com	21	
David	Koralov	3917 Denton Service Lane	College Park	MD	20742	davidkoralov@gmail.com	21	
Edward	Landa	3156 Gracefield Rd, Apt 409	Silver Spring	MD	20904	edwardlanda@yahoo.com	21	
Pat	Lindstrom	2230 Dairy Farm Rd	Gambrills	MD	21054	lindenstream4042@gmail.com	21	
Munro	Meyersburg	400 Montgomery Street	Laurel	MD	20707	munro.meyersburg@gmail.com	21	
William	Micol	8150 Baltimore Ave	College Park	MD	20740	wicolbull03@gmail.com	21	
Eva	Moore	7407 Princeton ave	College Park	MD	20740	em97410@gmail.com	21	
Janis	Oppelt	9200 49th Avenue, College Park, MD 20740	College Park	MD	20740	janiso@erols.com	21	
Matthew	Prinn	8400 Boteler In	College Park	MD	20742	mprinn@umd.edu	21	
Barbara	Talbott	6408 McCahill	Laurel	MD	20707	bjtalbott@icloud.com	21	
Lani	Tran	6903 Preinkert Dr	College Park	MD	20742	anitran1234@gmail.com	21	
Rebecca	Wallace	604 Carlton Otto lane	Odenton	MD	21113	rebecca.wallace1990@gmail.com	21	
Helen	Kaiser	7107 Wells Pkwy	Hyattsville	MD	20782-1042	helena.benes@gmail.com	22	With this Amendment to its Constitution, Maryland has an opportunity to lead our country as one of the first states to set environmental standards that will make greatly improve life for our children and grandchildren and for all other living things in the state of Maryland.
Marc	Simon	7114 Eversfield Dr	Hyattsville	MD	20782-1049	marcnealsimon@gmail.com	22	This is so crucial in the here and now, and even more so to secure a healthy future for our children.

Elisabeth	Herschbach	6601 Wells Pkwy	University Park	MD	20782-1449	elisabeth.herschbach@gmail.com	22	Please support the Environmental Human Rights Amendment to ensure that the right to a safe and healthy environment is protected for all Marylanders, especially those disproportionately impacted by environmental pollution and degradation.
Laura	Bonkosky	19 Ridge Rd Unit T	Greenbelt	MD	20770-2972	laura.bonkosky@gmail.com	22	Our right to clean air and water is so fundamental, and yet it is imperiled. Putting these rights into law would help to guarantee a livable environment for all Marylanders.
Kathy	Bartolomeo	15 Laurel Hill Rd Unit R	Greenbelt	MD	20770-7777	kabrtolo30@gmail.com	22	Maryland needs to be one of the leaders in environmental progress and protections. Making sure we have clean air and water, environmental justice, safety from chemical leaching, safe food and lands in which to grow our foods, support our trees and wildlife is the job of our legislators.
Marjory	Donn	117 Northway	Greenbelt	MD	20770-1711	marjory.donn@verizon.net	22	All Marylanders need a clean environment, including my grandchildren and everyone's grandchildren.
Linda	Murphy	4106 Quintana St	Hyattsville	MD	20782-2116	linda56k@verizon.net	22	
Tiffany	Englander	244 Lastner Ln	Greenbelt	MD	20770-1617	tiffany.m.englander@gmail.com	22	
Juan Jesus	Haro Mora	11 Ridge Rd Unit J	Greenbelt	MD	20770-2949	juanjharo@gmail.com	22	
David	Brosch	4313 Tuckerman St	University Park	MD	20782-2146	davidcbrosch@comcast.net	22	
Catherine	Turner	6805 40th Ave	University Park	MD	20782-1418	cjrt@juno.com	22	
Nancy	Barrett	4200 Crittenden St	Hyattsville	MD	20781-2110	nbarret1@terpmail.umd.edu	22	
John	Klinovsky	8 Laurel Hill Rd Unit G	Greenbelt	MD	20770-7763	johnk4015@gmail.com	22	
Eric	McKenzie	20 Hillside Rd Unit R	Greenbelt	MD	20770-7794	mckerih@aya.yale.edu	22	
Michael	Travis	3 Ridge Rd Unit G	Greenbelt	MD	20770-2958	mtps88@gmail.com	22	
William	Snyder	124 Rosewood Dr	Greenbelt	MD	20770-1622	wlscello@aol.com	22	
Sebastian	Fernandez	111 Rosewood Dr	Greenbelt	MD	20770-1624	sebifn@gmail.com	22	
Nancy	Hammond	3825 Oglethorpe St	Hyattsville	MD	20782-3018	hammond.nancy@gmail.com	22	
Lindsey	Mendelson	4555 Longfellow St	Hyattsville	MD	20781-1928	lindsey.mendelson@mdsierra.org	22	
Robin	Russell	13 Ridge Rd Unit E	Greenbelt	MD	20770-2945	robin_zoe@yahoo.com	22	
Patience	Robbins	59 Ridge Rd Unit G	Greenbelt	MD	20770-0796	patience.robbins@gmail.com	22	
Nicholas	Orrick	5708 Carters Ln	Riverdale	MD	20737-2708	orrickn4@aol.com	22	
Melissa	Sedwick	4004 Van Buren St	University Park	MD	20782-1413	msedwick@rocketmail.com	22	
Janet	Carpenter	4206 Underwood St	University Park	MD	20782-1181	janetakron@gmail.com	22	
Corey	Tucker	6506 40th Ave	University Park	MD	20782-2152	cjt.four@gmail.com	22	
Brad	Conrad	3904 Beechwood Rd	University Park	MD	20782-1426	bradrconrad@gmail.com	22	
Ashanti	Martinez	5707 Legation Ct	New Carrollton	MD	20784-2902	ashanti@ashantimartinez.com	22	
Thomas	Zeller	116 Julian Ct	Greenbelt	MD	20770-1613	tom_g_zeller@yahoo.com	22	
Nancy Joy	Allchin	11 RIDGE ROAD UNIT F	Greenbelt	MD	20770	njallchin@gmail.com	22	
Kathy	Bartolomeo	15 Laurel Hill Rd. Unit R	Greenbelt	MD	20770	kbartolo30@gmail.com	22	
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Juliette	Fradin	4013 Kennedy street	Hyattsville	MD	20781	juliettefradin@gmail.com	22	
Lavender	Hanson	7501 Mandan Rd	Greenbelt	MD	20770	elleh3113@gmail.com	22	
Michael	Hartman	2 Gardenway Road, Unit R	Greenbelt	MD	20770	michaelhartman23@gmail.com	22	
Elisabeth	Herschbach	6601 Wells Pkwy	Hyattsville	MD	20782	elisabeth.herschbach@gmail.com	22	
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T	Kowitt	Ridge rd	College Park	MD	20742	tkowitt@gmail.com	22	
JONATHAN	LEBOLT PhD LC	2D SOUTHWAY	Greenbelt	MD	20770	therapy@doctor-jon.com	22	
Danny	Lewis	3 ParkwayApt E	Greenbelt	MD	20770-1843	danny.lewis.1@gmail.com	22	
Jeremy	O'Roark	41A Ridge Rd	Greenbelt	MD	20770	oroark@gmail.com	22	
Vijay	Parameshwaran	9L Ridge Road	Greenbelt	MD	20770	vijay.pwn@gmail.com	22	
Sandra	Roberts	132 Northway	Greenbelt	MD	20770	sandrarty@yahoo.com	22	
Lore	Rosenthal	2 Gardenway, Unit R	Greenbelt	MD	20770	simplicitygroupsmd@gmail.com	22	
Jack	Saba	5615 Ruatan Street	College Park	MD	20740-4311	jlsaba001@gmail.com	22	
Annie	Shaw	39 Ridge Road Unit B	Greenbelt	MD	20770	i.am.annieshaw@gmail.com	22	
Robert	Simon	6116 Quebec Place	College Park	MD	20740	robertmsimon@hotmail.com	22	
Tom	Taylor	11-G Laurel Hill Road	Greenbelt	MD	20770	tomtaylor0401@gmail.com	22	
Diane	Teichert	4321 Van Buren St	University Park	MD	20782-1190	revdteichert@gmail.com	22	
Frances	Toler	6507 59th ave	Riverdale	MD	20737	francesstoler@msn.com	22	
Claire	Valdivia	6013 44th Avenue	Hyattsville	MD	20781	claire.valdivia@gmail.com	22	
Yvonne	Wallace-Penn	6201 Belcrest Rd.	Hyattsville	MD	20782	pastorp@fumchy.org	22	
Brent	Miller	12013 Marvel Ln	Bowie	MD	20715	nate8410@gmail.com	23	
Dorothy	Paugh	3912 WAKEFIELD LN	Bowie	MD	20715	aldopaugh@hotmail.com	23	
Marcia	Watson	14207 Lakerun Ct	Glenn Dale	MD	20720-4861	marshwren50@comcast.net	23	
Lauren	Zamora	3001 Tanbark Ln	Bowie	MD	20715-2014	teetu27@aol.com	23A	
Janet	Gingold	13107 Whiteholm Dr	Upper Marlboro	MD	20774-1831	janet.gingold@mdsierra.org	23B	It should be self-evident that government should protect the right of people to clean air, clean water, a stable climate and a healthful environment. However, in our current system, this does not happen. The shocking disparities in COVID19 outcomes and correlations with air pollution have underscored how the health of the environment is interconnected with human health. Failure to regulate activities that degrade the environment has led to an increase in immediate hazards related to air and water pollution, as well as the acceleration of global climate change. We have recently seen in our own county how the Public Service Commission failed to consider the cumulative effects on local air and water or the global effects of greenhouse gases in its deliberations about the Panda Mattawoman power plant in Brandywine because they did not consider these issues germane to decisions about new power plants. Our government should protect our environment.
Monica	Greene	12319 Stonehaven Ln Apt T10	Bowie	MD	20715-3163	monica.greene@yahoo.com	23B	I believe that every Marylander has a right to clean air, water, land, and a stable climate. Our state constitution should establish this right.
Reva	Thompson	15005 Pepperidge Dr	Bowie	MD	20721-3075	rthomp12@ycp.edu	23B	
Kathleen	Beres	3120 Church Rd	Mitchellville	MD	20721-1223	kabintospace@aol.com	23B	
Mardline	Cadet Prevot	14000 Jericho Park Rd	Bowie	MD	20715-3319	mcadetprevot@gmail.com	23B	
Elizabeth	Brown	12811 Kernel Circle	Bowie	MD	20715-2833	emacbrown@gmail.com	23B	
Michael	Heffron	16204 Aveston Place	Bowie	MD	20716-3812	mcheffron@umaryland.edu	23B	
Robin	Lewis	15620 N. Platte Dr	Bowie	MD	20716	robin@gwipl.org	23B	
Joan	MacDonnell	12207 Wheeling Ave	Upper Marlboro	MD	20772-5115	bagels78804@mypacks.net	23B	
Audrey	Rappaport	15726 Piller Ln	Bowie	MD	20716	rappaportaudrey@gmail.com	23B	
Mitchell	Smith	13510 Youngwood Turn	Bowie	MD	20715	msh265ms@gmail.com	23B	
Lynn	Troy	10450 Lottsford Rd	Bowie	MD	20721-2734	ltroyachase@gmail.com	24	Isn't the right to clean air, water, land and healthful, sustainable environment a no brainer?
Lucy	Duff	9210 Fowler Ln	Lanham	MD	20706-2454	lucyduff@comcast.net	24	

Alex	Culver	9305 Ogden Pl	Lanham	MD	20706-2773	vwgrapes2@ymail.com	24	
Woody	Woodruff	9210 Fowler Ln	Lanham	MD	20706-2454	woodlanham@gmail.com	24	
Michael	Burke	10450 Lottsford Rd Apt 364	Mitchellville	MD	20721-3303	burkemf@live.com	24	
Mike	Burke	10450 Lottsford Road	Bowie	MD	20721	burkemf@live.com	24	
Karen Lee	Scervo	12511 Guinvere Road	Glenn Dale	MD	20769	karen.scervo@gmail.com	24	
Kate	Stewart-Gerry	4704 Heath St. Capitol Heights, MD 20743	Capitol Heights	MD	20743	c.m.gerry11@gmail.com	24	
Arthuree	Wright	2203 Durbin Court	Bowie	MD	20721	drawright2001@yahoo.com	24	
Meya	Law	7100 Mount Forest Ter	Forestville	MD	20747-3968	zardiva1@aol.com	25	
Nailah	Dawkins	2802 Matapeake Dr	Upper Marlboro	MD	20774-9429	nailahdwkns37@gmail.com	25	
Christine	White	11101 Mt Lubentia Way	Upper Marlboro	MD	20774-5730	wnikki1155@gmail.com	25	
James	Lawson	2109 S Alleva Ct	Accokeek	MD	20607-3254	jimjim7@gmail.com	26	The constitution should be amended to add Environmental Rights to the Maryland Constitution.
Nancy	Bhargava	304 E Swan Creek Rd	Fort Washington	MD	20744-6150	nancybhargava@yahoo.com	26	
Judith	Allen-Leventhal	PO Box 217	Accokeek	MD	20607-0217	j.allenleventhal@gmail.com	26	
Valencia	Campbell	402 Olympic Ct	Fort Washington	MD	20744-5018	valenciacampbell2003@yahoo.com	26	
Judy	Allen-Leventhal	P.O. Box 217	Accokeek	MD	20607	j.allenleventhal@gmail.com	26	
Staci	Hartwell	145 Fleet Street, 102	National Harbor	MD	20745	SRHConsulting@gmail.com	26	
Clarissa	Salcedo	13119 Glasgow Way	Fort Washington	MD	20744	mcteq@aol.com	26	
Anna	Sewell	14710 Poplar Hill Pl	Accokeek	MD	20607	sewell.anna@gmail.com	26	
Tracey	Smallwood	1322 Harwich Dr	Waldorf	MD	20601-3322	traceycsmallwood@gmail.com	27A	
Valarie	Proctor	17243 Creekside Dr	Brandywine	MD	20613-7003	valarieproctor26@gmail.com	27A	
Tiana	Hawkins	6916 Crafton Ln	Clinton	MD	20735	t4liberation@gmail.com	27A	
Tracey	katsouros	1322 Harwich dr	Waldorf	MD	20601	traceycsmallwood@gmail.com	27A	
Douglas	Vaughn	726 Chatsworth Drive	Accokeek	MD	20607	Dougevaughn@aol.com	27A	
Mary	Hollinger	PO Box 965	Huntingtown	MD	20639-0965	baysampler@yahoo.com	27B	This should be a no-brainer. We should all expect to have clean air and water, and even soil. Without those basic elements of life, we all end up paying ridiculous medical costs, both physically and monetarily, in personal funds and taxes
Susan	Brockman	11601 Rivershore Dr	Dunkirk	MD	20754-9448	kharghia@yahoo.com	27B	Clean air and water are fundamental rights of every citizen. Unfortunately, economic motives have undermined that right and the road to cleaner air and water has become more and more complex. This amendment would provide an active voice for each one of us to serve as advocates for our local communities. Your support is paramount to open the door for us. Thank you in advance!
Karen	Hargrave	5820 Huntingtown Rd	Huntingtown	MD	20639-8907	sampong2@yahoo.com	27B	
Catherine	Cretu	11489 Chews Branch Rd	Owings	MD	20736-9795	ccretu@comcast.net	27B	
Claire	Gerhard	14110 Baden Westwood Rd	Brandywine	MD	20613-8431	clairegerhard@gmail.com	27B	
Jacob	Wilkins	2950 Holland Cliffs Rd	Huntingtown	MD	20639-8821	jakewilkins97@gmail.com	27B	
Helenmary	Ball	8860 Stratford Ct	Owings	MD	20736-3601	helenmary.g.ball@gmail.com	27B	
Dominique	Edmondson	10706 Wylid Dr	Upper Marlboro	MD	20772-4662	dedmondson@cwa-union.org	27B	
David	Donahue	1711 Canvasback Ct	Huntingtown	MD	20639-2111	david_donahue09@comcast.net	27B	
Eleni	Pletcher	2640 Redbud Ln	Owings	MD	20736-9141	kacoplech@gmail.com	27B	
Mary	Burton	3795 Yellow Bank Rd	Dunkirk	MD	20754	pokipoki@verizon.net	27B	
Cindy	Peil	3120 Hickory Ridge Road	Dunkirk	MD	20754	clarrene3120@gmail.com	27B	
Marvin	Silver	10137 Dressage Drive	Upper Marlboro	MD	20772	msilver@cacucc.org	27B	

Sandy	Bell	3330 Blue Heron Dr N	Chesapeake Bea	MD	20732-3588	feministoma@aol.com	27C	My grandchildren deserve a livable planet! All life on the planet is at peril and we have no time left to debate action. We need to take action now for all living beings!
Larry & Cathy	Foutz	4010 Breezy Point Rd	Chesapeake Bea	MD	20732-3524	cathyfoutz@gmail.com	27C	Know Justice, Know Peace.
Lisa	Dakes	7631 C St	Chesapeake Bea	MD	20732-9403	lisadakes@yahoo.com	27C	
Fabienne	Ament	1705 Kingswood Dr	Prince Frederick	MD	20678-4011	fabienneament@comcast.net	27C	
Crystal	Tracy	5165 Rosemary Dr	Chesapeake Bea	MD	20732-3451	crystalsea24@gmail.com	27C	
Birgit	Sharp	8836 Rymer Way	Owings	MD	20736-9345	birgitsharp@gmail.com	27C	
Gregory	Bowen	1235 Mallard Point Rd	Prince Frederick	MD	20678-3825	landstewardshipsolutionsllc@gmail.com	27C	
Paige	Stevens	770 Chippingwood Dr	Port Republic	MD	20676-3101	paigekathstev@gmail.com	27C	
Ron	Klauda	1401 Foxtail Ln	Prince Frederick	MD	20678-3105	tjklauda@gmail.com	27C	
Ron	Sharp	8836 Rymer Way	Owings	MD	20736-9345	rsharp99@gmail.com	27C	
Linda	Wiley	9133 Frederick Ave	North Beach	MD	20714-5013	wiley2001@live.com	27C	
Sheri	Hill	3657 Bayside Rd	Chesapeake Bea	MD	20732-3905	sheri.hill927@gmail.com	27C	
Kathy	Daniel	2417 Acacia Rd	Port Republic	MD	20676	kdaniel20816@gmail.com	27C	
Michael	Deffinbaugh	925 Calvert Beach rd	Saint Leonard	MD	20685	deffinbaughfarms@gmail.com	27C	
Bernard	Devlin	5438 Bayside Rd	Chesapeake Bea	MD	20732-4024	bernard@waterkeeperschesapeake.com	27C	
Pat	Pease	2315 Vern Road	Prince Frederick	MD	20678	4patpease@gmail.com	27C	
Sarah	Grzyb	6285 Whispering Ln	La Plata	MD	20646-3165	skgrzyb@smcm.edu	28	My family and I have always lived in the more rural parts of Maryland. The natural ecosystem is something we treasure about this state, and it hurts so many to watch it get destroyed by pollution and an overall lack of care towards the environment and those living in it. Environmental health really is the backbone to keeping the residents of Maryland happy, safe, and healthy.
Marc	Imlay	2321 Woodberry Dr	Bryans Road	MD	20616-3256	ialm@erols.com	28	Minorities have the right to benefit from the environment
Katherine	Babiak	8350 Woody Rd	Port Tobacco	MD	20677-3105	kmbnyc@aol.com	28	
LaShawna	Marks	433 Patuxent Ct	La Plata	MD	20646-3979	naymayon@msn.com	28	
Karen	Haney	4855 Grandview Ct	La Plata	MD	20646-2846	khaney12345@gmail.com	28	
Erica	Mulcahy	2605 Smith Point Rd	Nanjemoy	MD	20662-3521	erica.wright1984@gmail.com	28	
Supporter	Unknown	129 Tall Grass Ln	La Plata	MD	20646-3239	mollypinkas@yahoo.com	28	
David	Somerville	3228 Guilford Dr	Waldorf	MD	20602-2586	davidclarinet@gmail.com	28	
Tracy	Carroll	9710 Hickory Ln	La Plata	MD	20646-3741	tracy.15@verizon.net	28	
John	Posey	7412 Woodhaven Dr	La Plata	MD	20646-4007	michaelposey@hotmail.com	28	
Laura	Ford	8346 Roundhill Road	Charlotte Hall	MD	20622	godsgracefarm@gmail.com	28	
Melina	Frame	14075 MOUNT EAGLE LN	Waldorf	MD	20601	mellframe@yahoo.com	28	
Marc	Imlay	2321 Woodberry Drive	Bryans Road	MD	20616	IALM@EROLS.COM	28	
Bethany	Richardson	3463 Hearthfire Ct	White Plains	MD	20695	bethany6301@gmail.com	28	
Vontasha	Simms	3383 Justice CT	Saint Charles	MD	20602	vontashasimms@gmail.com	28	
Ryan	Fraer	44980 Hamptons Blvd	Leonardtwn	MD	20650-4750	ryanfraer@gmail.com	29A	We have to be able to leave something for our descendants and we have to start now.
Olga	Dewey	22231 Monterey PI	Leonardtwn	MD	20650-2817	deweyhome@md.metrocast.net	29A	This is completely in line with the Federal constitution's guarantee of LIFE, Liberty, etc.
Nancy	Matus	23599 Belmar Dr	Leonardtwn	MD	20650-5840	matusn56@gmail.com	29A	I worry that my grandchildren will not have the same quality of life that I have enjoyed if we do not preserve the environment. All children deserve the right to a healthy existence.
AnnMarie	Abell	22869 Newtowne Neck Rd	Leonardtwn	MD	20650-3725	annmarieabell@gmail.com	29A	I believe this is a fundamental and constitutional right and it should be protected. We should ensure that it becomes an obligation of our government.

Amy	Ford	28835 Three Notch Rd	Mechanicsville	MD	20659-3204	ford.amy@gmail.com	29A	Health costs due to environment pollution and climate change are astronomical. It's not only the right thing to do, it's the economical thing to do.
Ashley	Cobaugh	26292 T Wood Dr	Mechanicsville	MD	20659-4652	ashleycobaugh7@gmail.com	29A	
Eugene	Tehansky	39655 Ellen Ct	Mechanicsville	MD	20659-3385	sergetehansky@gmail.com	29A	
Amy	Henderson	41365 Knight Rd	Leonardtown	MD	20650-2252	hendermom08@gmail.com	29A	
Brenda	Songy	40895 Lark Way	Leonardtown	MD	20650-2248	brendasongy@gmail.co	29A	
Hillary	Maher	30180 Hunt Rd	Mechanicsville	MD	20659-3646	hillary.nason@gmail.com	29A	
Emma	Humbert	38529 Dorothy Mae Ct	Clements	MD	20624-2142	emmahumbert1@yahoo.com	29A	
Adrianna	Danvers	36171 Aviation Yacht Club Rd	Mechanicsville	MD	20659-5927	adriannadanvers@gmail.com	29A	
Brianna	Englert	39411 Pinewood Ln	Mechanicsville	MD	20659-5230	bbenglert@smcm.edu	29A	
Nancy	Matus	23599 Belmar Drive	Leonardtown	MD	20650	matusn56@gmail.com	29A	
Pamela	Mann	22064 Fox Ridge Rd	Lexington Park	MD	20653-1864	pepmail@sbcglobal.net	29B	We are already behind on protecting the planet from Climate change. Too many people in the state of Maryland have already been negatively affected by industrial environmental pollution, especially Black and Brown communities,. Climate change will amplify the existing inequalities.
Rosa	Hance	45547 Stoney Run Dr	Great Mills	MD	20634-3043	rosa.hance@mdsierra.org	29B	Thank you for making time to meet with Sierra Club volunteers. We appreciate your dedication to service of your constituents. I wanted to follow up with you on an amendment to the Maryland Constitution that is in front of the Judiciary/Judicial Proceedings Committee. I would be interested in your thoughts as to the prospects of this legislative effort advancing out of committee this session given all of the other bills that are on the table this year. I think that it is a worthwhile endeavor to enshrine the right to clean air, clean water and healthful environment into our declaration of rights as well as make the state the trustee of our natural resources.
Jennifer	Carter	20308 Janeen Ln	Park Hall	MD	20667-2744	jameswcarter333@gmail.com	29B	I would like a healthier environment and a happier population from the healthier environment.
Ellen	Halbert	46454 Cherryfield Ln	Drayden	MD	20630-3306	ehalbett23@gmail.com	29B	
Bonnie	Kelnberger	48392 Sunburst Dr	Lexington Park	MD	20653-4588	bkelnberger@gmail.com	29B	
Jennifer	McGuire	17665 Saint Inigoes Rd	Saint Inigoes	MD	20684-3034	jenmcguire@protonmail.com	29B	
Carolyn	Williamson	PO Box 37	Saint Marys City	MD	20686-0037	williamsoncaro@gmail.com	29B	
Sareka	Butler	21998 Brigantine Ct	Great Mills	MD	20634-2238	sareka.mills@icloud.com	29B	
Michelle	Pottinger	46112 Thoroughbred Way	Lexington Park	MD	20653-2069	shellyhebb1@gmail.com	29B	
Jennifer	Carroll	48338 Elmer Way	Saint Inigoes	MD	20684-3021	carston@md.metrocast.net	29B	
Collin	Foster	17559 River Dr	Piney Point	MD	20674-3104	collin@collinjfoster.com	29B	
Crystal	Brandt	18315 Point Lookout Rd	Park Hall	MD	20667-2725	crystalbrandt@gmail.com	29B	
Mark	Glucksman-Glas	45715 Stoney Run Dr	Great Mills	MD	20634-3057	markgglaser@gmail.com	29B	
Leah	Carroll	48338 Elmer Way	Saint Inigoes	MD	20684-3021	oceanlover20489@gmail.com	29B	
Shukriyyah	Greaves	21381 Hawkbit Ct	Lexington Park	MD	20653-4006	segreaves@smcm.edu	29B	
Hameedah	Greaves	2539 Green Tree Dr S Apt A	Lexington Park	MD	20653-3768	y_mee10@yahoo.com	29B	
Shellnice	Hudson	20913 Coronet Pl	Lexington Park	MD	20653-2499	heisventures@gmail.com	29B	
Theresa	Brown	20835 Daisy Ln Unit B	Lexington Park	MD	20653-5275	pastasia@hotmail.com	29B	
Jannis	Camacho	44997 Shore Dr	Tall Timbers	MD	20690-2015	camachojannis@gmail.com	29B	
Patty	Pelington	704 Carpenter Park	Patuxent River	MD	20670-1328	patty.pelington@gmail.com	29B	
Benjamin	Hance	45547 Stoney Run Dr	Great Mills	MD	20634-3043	benjamin.t.hance@gmail.com	29B	
Cody	Hance	45715 Stoney Run Dr	Great Mills	MD	20634-3057	codyhance14@gmail.com	29B	
Will	Spann	45715 Stoney Run Dr	Great Mills	MD	20634-3057	wspann92@gmail.com	29B	
Emily	Bzdyk	48015 Freehold Dr	Lexington Park	MD	20653-3225	embz20@gmail.com	29B	
Merideth	Taylor	19089 Point Lookout Rd	Lexington Park	MD	20653-3109	mmtaylor118@gmail.com	29B	

Eric	Giles	45465 Locust Grove Dr	Valley Lee	MD	20692-3215	egiles841@gmail.com	29B	
Ellen	Halbert	46454 Cherryfield Ln	Drayden	MD	20630-3306	ehalbert23@gmail.com	29B	
Brandon	Smith	46093 Saltmarsh Ct	Lexington Park	MD	20653-2879	smithb3@gmail.com	29B	
Bonnie	Kelnberger	48392 Sunburst Dr	Lexington Park	MD	20653	bonnie.kelnberger@mdsierra.org	29B	
Jessica	Taylor	46984 Pembroke St.	Lexington Park	MD	20653	jessica.taylor@outlook.com	29B	
Jacinta	Bottoms-Spence	PO Box 1454	California	MD	20619-1454	reign4everconsultingpsc@gmail.com	29B	We are the [human] stewards God has put on Earth to manage the planet. We [humans] have not been doing a very good job. I am concerned about Electronic and Technological waste. I welcome technological advancement but equally responsible technological waste disposable is paramount to me. Research shows that computer/telephone scrap and parts end up in third world countries inhabitants back yards. How long before this is happening in the U. S.? We have a Global responsibility to protect all humanity from electronic & technological waste and runoff.
Hugo	Blasdel	11450 Asbury Cir Apt 209	Solomons	MD	20688-3049	hblasdel@gmail.com	29C	When the environment is not fit for humans, people die or do not have the health they deserve violating the declaration of Independence on life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness.
Asha	Andreas	550 Bay View Dr	Lusby	MD	20657-3215	ashaandreas@yahoo.com	29C	We all need clean air and water.
Robert	Boxwell	11785 Clifton Dr	Solomons	MD	20688	robert1@outlook.com	29C	Being a Southern Maryland resident we end up with all the potentially dangerous industrial industries. Nuclear power plant, LNG terminal, several attempts at waste incinerators. Enough is enough.
Tamara	Evers	23308 Christy Ct	California	MD	20619-3265	tammidhardy@aol.com	29C	
Jennifer	Willoughby	43584 Deer Run Ct	Leonardtown	MD	20650-4577	jenwilletta@md.meteocast.net	29C	
Laurel	Cahill	13518 Osprey Ln	Solomons	MD	20688-4007	laurelcahill@gmail.com	29C	
Heather	Kerr	12428 Hisperia Rd	Lusby	MD	20657-4530	heatherwells270@gmail.com	29C	
Samantha	Williams	12850 Rio Grande Trl	Lusby	MD	20657-4423	skurvieve@gmail.com	29C	
Deborah	Hines	23290 White Elm Ct	California	MD	20619-2000	djhines417@gmail.com	29C	
Tammara	Davis	22991 Forest Way	California	MD	20619-6005	drtmarradavis@gmail.com	29C	
Irene	Duffy	22159 Hanover Woods Ct	Leonardtown	MD	20650-4139	duffy4@gmail.com	29C	
Diana	Stabile	42176 Barn Ct	Leonardtown	MD	20650-4141	stabledf@gmail.com	29C	
Rachel	Martin Jones	46020 E Sunrise Dr	Lexington Park	MD	20653-6337	rachelm425@gmail.com	29C	
Gillian	Snoddy	404 Lake Ter	Lusby	MD	20657-3226	gsnoddy@hotmail.com	29C	
Lauren	Elyard	12217 Bonanza Trl	Lusby	MD	20657-3671	lauren.elyard@gmail.com	29C	
Elizabeth	Ward	24434 Ruff Ruff Ln	Hollywood	MD	20636-2838	lizzync@gmail.com	29C	
Harita	Iswara	23433 Canna Ct	California	MD	20619-6170	hiswara.7@gmail.com	29C	
Betty	Waring	PO Box 159	Leonardtown	MD	20650-0159	bwaring7@yahoo.com	29C	
Camille	Rohde	12978 Lake Ln	Lusby	MD	20657-3293	camille_rohde@outlook.com	29C	
Kathleen	Kain	44583 Joy Chapel Rd	Hollywood	MD	20636-4838	kathekain@hotmail.com	29C	
James	Bell	23035 Forest Way	California	MD	20619-6006	jtylerbell@yahoo.com	29C	
Sandra	Gwynn	363 Clubhouse Drive	Lusby	MD	20657	sgwynnpersonal@gmail.com	29C	
Jesse	McCormick	43511 Deer Run Ct	Leonardtown	MD	20650	koan620@hotmail.com	29C	
Julia	Nichols	20469 Deer Wood Park Drive	Leonardtown	MD	20650	juliamargaretnichols@gmail.com	29C	
Kristen	Wesloh	294 Valerie Lane	Lusby	MD	20657	kristen.wesloh@yahoo.com	29C	
Carol	Antoniewicz	8207 Gambrell Park Rd	Frederick	MD	21702	Ecacres@comcast.net	3	
Lee	Jeffrey	7117 Ridge Rd	Frederick	MD	21702	cstraaten1@gmail.com	3	
Sarah	May	4836 Hargett Lane	Frederick	MD	21702	smay543@gmail.com	3	
Thomasa	Pomeroy	5600 Rivendell Place	Frederick	MD	21703	tomato.pomeroy@gmail.com	3	
Rebecca	Shillingburg	3156 Sumantown Rd.	Middletown	MD	21769	rsshillingburg@gmail.com	3	

Emily	Marshall	1713 Bentley Rd	Edgewater	MD	21037-2504	gemmarshall15@gmail.com	30A	We still haven't protected everyone's human rights regardless of race so can we please do right by our planet and save our environments by passing environment rights.
Lani	Hummel	901 Bay Ridge Rd	Annapolis	MD	21403-3934	lanihummel@aol.com	30A	We need to establish each person's fundamental right to clean air, water, land, and a healthful, sustainable environment. Raising this right to a constitutional protection is the most effective way to prevent the most egregious forms of harmful actions now and in the future and ensure that all citizens and communities are treated equally.
Jack	Breen	3214 Chrisland Dr	Annapolis	MD	21403-4350	breen.jw.esq@gmail.com	30A	Third world countries are suffering dramatically due to drought and falling crop yields I saw this in India where I was a peace corps volunteer. These consequences are also happening the American west and south west Please support this amendment
Erin	Krauss	816 Shore Dr	Edgewater	MD	21037-2141	erinkrauss1@gmail.com	30A	Solidify the protection of the environment in the Maryland Constitution and help set a standard to prioritize environmental rights when drawing up legislation. Set your legacy as a senator/delegate who cares about the health of children and future generations.
Robert	Lumsden	2673 Cunningham Hole Rd	Annapolis	MD	21401-6805	rdlumsden@msn.com	30A	Our environment is too precious to waste
Penny	Wallace	765 Fairview Ave	Annapolis	MD	21403-2935	penrus932@gmail.com	30A	I would like to know that my grandchildren are as safe as we could make it.
Christine	Kelsey	2116 George Boiardi Ln	Annapolis	MD	21401-3289	kelswede22@verizon.net	30A	I have had an incurable but treatable illness for 30 years - an autoimmune disease that is of unknown causes but not having clean pure water or air or environment most likely affected me directly as I struggle to deal with this state of my health. It is a basic right for EVERY human to have these 3 essential things - pure water,pure air and pure as possible environment!
Claire	Miller	926 King James Landing Rd	Annapolis	MD	21403-3591	ctmsailor@gmail.com	30A	As a person of faith, it is critical to put the health of our environment and our public first. Please stand with us to protect our righ tot a healthful environment.
Philip	Allen	3463 Rockway Ave	Annapolis	MD	21403-4849	pallen@frostburg.edu	30A	Although it's (alas) unlikely to pass the ballot test, this discussion opens one essential step toward protective legislation as the climate crisis descends.
Cory	Bonney	534 Burnside St	Annapolis	MD	21403-3215	cgbonney@yahoo.com	30A	
Lisa	Mayr Boynton	1024 Forest Hills Ave	Annapolis	MD	21403-1749	lisaboynton13@gmail.com	30A	
Christy	Dugan	161 Green St	Annapolis	MD	21401-2501	christyreed@hotmail.com	30A	
Kathy	Minor	3217 Chrisland Dr	Annapolis	MD	21403-4352	kbminor@yahoo.com	30A	
Paul	Kaladas	1139 Bay Ridge Rd	Annapolis	MD	21403-4305	kaladasp@verizon.net	30A	
Philip	Ateto	1800 Poplar Ave	Annapolis	MD	21401-3236	pateto@vt.edu	30A	
Ginger	Woolridge	207 Wardour Dr	Annapolis	MD	21401-1248	gingerwoolridge@comcast.net	30A	
Ted	Weber	1022 Park Ave	Annapolis	MD	21403-2323	savethereefs@gmail.com	30A	
Ruth	Potts	405 Cedar Grove Rd	Edgewater	MD	21037-2916	ripent@yahoo.com	30A	
Elaine	Dodge	163 Cardamon Dr	Edgewater	MD	21037-1134	emdodge@aol.com	30A	
Sarah	Espinosa Mullen	489 Colonial Ridge Ln	Arnold	MD	21012-2391	saespinosamullen@gmail.com	30A	
William	Mc Allister	2624 Point Lookout Cv	Annapolis	MD	21401-6810	stuffofbill@gmail.com	30A	
Thomas	Brewer	167 Green St Apt 2	Annapolis	MD	21401-2511	tbrewer@smcm.edu	30A	
Nancy	Plaxico	3303 Shore Dr	Annapolis	MD	21403-4724	nancy.plaxico@gmail.com	30A	
Barbara	France	50 Sandstone Ct Apt H	Annapolis	MD	21403-5730	barb.france@verizon.net	30A	
Louise	Taylor	28 Williams Dr	Annapolis	MD	21401-2265	ltaylor2@comcast.net	30A	
Joan	Turek	854 Woodmont Rd	Annapolis	MD	21401-6909	jlturek@aol.com	30A	
Laura	Glass	230 Dewey Dr	Annapolis	MD	21401-2245	laura.glass@mdsierra.org	30A	
Carlos	Acosta	3 Merle Ct	Annapolis	MD	21403	carlos10acosta@icloud.com	30A	
Evelyn	Adkins	Granville Ave	Annapolis	MD	21401	acroevelyn@yahoo.com	30A	

Gillian	Adkins	119 Granville Avenue	Annapolis	MD	21401	ga9235@bard.com	30A	
Susan	Allen	3463 Rockway Avenue	Annapolis	MD	21403	susanallen0@mac.com	30A	
brooke	bandes	302 annapolis street	Annapolis	MD	21401	brookebandes06@icloud.com	30A	
Ruth	Berlin	544 Epping Forest Road	Annapolis	MD	21401	mpnberlin@gmail.com	30A	
Ruth	Berlin	54 Epping Forest Road	Annapolis	MD	21401	berlin@mdpestnet.org	30A	
Mary Ellen	Bobb	805 Coxswain Way, Unit 206	Annapolis	MD	21401	mebobb978@gmail.com	30A	
Athena	Boyd	7440 Edgewood Rd	Annapolis	MD	21403	matizfer@gmail.com	30A	
Maddy	Brianas	12 Thompson Street	Annapolis	MD	21401	maddybrianas@gmail.com	30A	
Laura	Burns	15 Bancroft	Annapolis	MD	21403	lauramcfarland.b@gmail.com	30A	
Laura	Burns	15 BANCROFT AVE	Annapolis	MD	21403	laurapburns@gmail.com	30A	
Emily	Burrows	424 Londontown rd	Edgewater	MD	21037	emmykburrows@gmail.com	30A	
Deniz	Carroll	3207 Blackwalnut Drive	Annapolis	MD	21403	carroll126@comcast.net	30A	
Crab Creek	Conservancy	1783 Forest Dr., Suite 109	Annapolis	MD	21401	conservecrabcreek@gmail.com	30A	
Dianne	Crews	201 Porter Dr	Annapolis	MD	21401	dmackcrn@verizon.net	30A	
Carol	Cronin	19 MAYO AVE	Annapolis	MD	21403	c.cronin@comcast.net	30A	
Carmella	Del Giudice	934 bay ridge avenue	Annapolis	MD	21403	crdstefanic@gmail.com	30A	
Deborah	Dixon	29 Shadow Point Ct	Edgewater	MD	21037	deborahdixon1108@gmail.com	30A	
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Lauren		3052 Mimon Rd	Annapolis	MD	21403	lggoulet12@gmail.com	30A	
Mildred	Bowers	411 Hamlet Club Dr Unit 306	Edgewater	MD	21037-2653	millie_bowers2@yahoo.com	30B	Dear Shaneka Henson, We all wear face masks to protect ourselves from the coronavirus. If we don't have clean air we and future generations will be wearing face mask all the time.
Patricia	Peters	1232 Pine Ave	Shady Side	MD	20764-9572	pspeters1@comcast.net	30B	
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Isabella	Clarke	180 Tilden Way	Edgewater	MD	21037	isabellaclarke001@gmail.com	30B	

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Madonna	Fick	3153 Stonehenge Dr	Riva	MD	21140	doobie7g@verizon.net	30B	
Joanne	Howl	4304 Tenthouse	West River	MD	20778	Jovet@aol.com	30B	
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Linda	Johnson	1286 Fairfax Ave Churchton MD	Churchton	MD	20733	lindagayle316@gmail.com	30B	
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Gigi	Stephan	3621 Conch Drive	Edgewater	MD	21037	gstefhan23@gmail.com	30B	
Katherine	Wanner	3460 south river terrace	Edgewater	MD	21037	katherineannwanner@gmail.com	30B	
Debra	Wilson	6093 drum point rd	Deale	MD	20751	dealeonthechesapeake@icloud.com	30B	
Penny	Whitmer	1703 Lansing Rd	Glen Burnie	MD	21060-7414	penny.whitmer25@gmail.com	31A	As the vehicle emissions and coal fired plants spew their toxins into the air more and more Marylanders like me have our health, our air and waters deteriorate. As developers rip out small forests for another retail store or overpriced housing development the ecosystem that was there is destroyed for the almighty dollar and the trees that helped clean the air are gone and those of us who watch are demoralized as profit takes priority over people's rights to clean land and air. We should be planning carefully to preserve and protect for generations to come.
Rose	Bult	545 Donner Way	Millersville	MD	21108-1675	rosenoyes@gmail.com	31B	It is a grievous wrong traveling on Marylands byways through parks, cities, waterways and the Chesapeake Bay and feeling disgust instead of pleasure. Toxic smoke billows from old coal fired power plants that are immune from prosecution. A scum of human waste regularly floats on tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay. Military and gov't sites pollute their environs with toxic chemical and petroleum waste. Plastic chokes certain areas of Baltimore Harbor and flows out to the Atlantic.
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Dianne	Westbrook	7877 Mansion House Crossing	Pasadena	MD	21122-6324	edwestbrook1@gmail.com	31B	
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Erin	Hamner	704 Kraft Ct	Glen Burnie	MD	21061-4889	becca_paleta@yahoo.com	32	
Christina	Brewer	359 Majesty Gln	Glen Burnie	MD	21061-6233	t_i_n_a_brewer@cablespeed.com	32	
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Sierra	Broseker	305 Newfield Road	Glen Burnie	MD	21061	sierrabroseker1359@gmail.com	32	
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Samantha	Fairbanks	1615 Cheston Lane	Hanover	MD	21076	sfairbanks@umaryland.edu	32	
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Olivia	LaManna	625 Sandy Ridge Dr.	Glen Burnie	MD	21061	oblamanna2007@gmail.com	32	
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Liberty	White	8633 Gaffney Street	Fort George G M	MD	20755	gilders_rider_0e@icloud.com	32	
Terri	Werner	787 Old Herald Harbor Rd	Crownsville	MD	21032-1524	terri_werner@hotmail.com	33	This is crucial not only for individuals, but for survival of the human species itself. And it is imperative to act now.
Barbara	Winner	204 Baybourne Dr	Arnold	MD	21012-1048	blwinner57@gmail.com	33	I want to know that I have a political say in our environment. I already have an environmentally friendly yard through native plants and trees, a compost, and an organic garden, but I hope to do more for the health of our planet and future generations.
sandra	weinstein	663 Mallard Ct	Arnold	MD	21012-1510	sandra.weinstein@pgcps.org	33	I have been in health care for 40 years and cannot believe that armed with the knowledge that environmental pollution causes significant health, medical emotional cost that we continue to even debate the need to curb pollution. What better time than now to take swift action to decrease the harm to our environment and ensure better health and well being of our citizens? We continue to have significantly higher cancer, asthma and lung tissue disease than other states in our country. I don't believe it takes a scientist to understand the relationship of pollution and poor health outcomes! I do believe it takes action by our law makers! Forget about the golf course, coal, oil, chemical and big agricultural corporate lobbyist groups and put the citizens and children of our communities first.
Maggie	Neuman	884 Doris Dr	Arnold	MD	21012-1446	mrneuman@smcm.edu	33	I am almost twenty years old. I need to know that the world I will be spending my adult life in will be safe, balanced, healthy, and RESPECTED ecologically. Frankly, right now my world is not. This amendment ensures this will be achieved.
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Monica	Oconnor	301 Avondale circle	Severna Park	MD	21146	mdoconnor17@gmail.com	33	
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Trishelle	Weed	115 Gambrells Rd.	Severna	MD	21144	trishelleweed@gmail.com	33	
Sandra	Weinstein	663 Mallard Ct.	Arnold	MD	21012	sandylandbeach@aol.com	33	
Richard	Welch	102 Spot Club Road	Arnold	MD	21012	richardvwelch@gmail.com	33	
Jasmine	Wilding	1162 Blue Bird Ln	Crownsville	MD	21032	jslerlem1@hotmail.com	33	
Jamie Lyn	Wood	383 Yorkshire Ln	Riva	MD	21140	jmwood2@loyola.edu	33	
Sehar	Zubair	600 Robinson Station Rd	Severna Park	MD	21146	szubair@aacps.org	33	
Josh	May	1108 Commanders drive S		MD	21407	jmay44762@gmail.com	33	
Cynthia	England	600 S Stepney Rd	Aberdeen	MD	21001-2615	cynott74@gmail.com	34A	We are the problem and we must fix what we have done. Stop using the earth as a garbage dump. We know what we are doing wrong.
Marilynn	Baldwin	109 Beards Hill Rd	Aberdeen	MD	21001-1923	baldwinmp42@gmail.com	34A	I really like this idea because I would like my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren to grow up in a healthy environment without so much air and water pollution.
Suzanne	Tuthill	305 Tidewater Dr	Havre De Grace	MD	21078-4144	stuthill@dtcc.edu	34A	
Martha	Lamb	4307 Marigold Ln	Belcamp	MD	21017-1668	burnett7625@yahoo.com	34A	
Sarahia	Benn	225 Farm Road	Aberdeen	MD	21001	SarahiaBenn@gmail.com	34A	
Autumn	Boyle	246 Hemlock Ln	Aberdeen	MD	21001	autumn.m.boyle@gmail.com	34A	
Zack	Frink	564 Jamestown Court	Edgewood	MD	21040	zackfrink@duck.com	34A	
Bonnie	Hallock	592 Chapel Terrace	Havre De Grace	MD	21078	chickadee027@verizon.net	34A	
Virginia	Kennedy	4426 Ventura Way Apt. C	Aberdeen	MD	21001	vmk6@cornell.edu	34A	

May	Kuroiwa	603 Commerce St	Havre De Grace	MD	21078	makuroiwa@hotmail.com	34A	
Steven	Preston	3707 Wolf Trail Dr.	Abingdon	MD	21009	rideau.osprey@gmail.com	34A	
Roberta	Scoville	610 Chesapeake Dr	Havre De Grace	MD	21078	rjspax@gmail.com	34A	
Alan	Sweatman	826 country club rd	Havre De Grace	MD	21078	asweatman@comcast.net	34A	
Yvonne	Wagner	925 Hookers Mill Rd	Abingdon	MD	21009-1117	wagner5@comcast.net	34B	
Bev	Talbot	1536 Parkland Dr	Bel Air	MD	21015-2106	bev.talbot@verizon.net	34B	
Sarah	Gotfredson	504 June Apple Ct	Abingdon	MD	21009-2414	sarah.gotfredson@gmail.com	34B	
Walter	Barnes	200 Hazelnut Ct Apt K	Bel Air	MD	21015-1924	frosanghap@comcast.net	34B	
Gertudr	Hopkins	Burgh westra way	Abingdon	MD	21009	gbhopkins5@gmail.com	34B	
Meredith	Lyttle	240 Hunters Run Terrace	Bel Air	MD	21015	mklyttle@loyola.edu	34B	
Aravinda	Pillalamarri	712 S Shamrock Road	Bel Air	MD	21014	paravinda@yahoo.com	34B	
Elizabeth	Pratt	48 Barrington place, Bel Air, MD	Bel Air	MD	21014	lizpratt1250@gmail.com	34B	
Kernell	Ries	321 Hunter Chase Ct	Bel Air	MD	21015	khcries@verizon.net	34B	
Beverly	Talbot	1536 Parkland Drive	Bel Air	MD	21015	bev.talbot@verizon.net	34B	
Yvonne	Wagner	925 Hookers Mill RoAd	Abingdon	MD	21009	wagneryvonne29@gmail.com	34B	
Tracey	Waite	617 Foxcroft Dr	Bel Air	MD	21014	thinkpeace@verizon.net	34B	
Maxwell	Wray	1412 Thorndon dr	Bel Air	MD	21015	maxwray@ymail.com	34B	
Michael	Adams	1442 Sharon Acres Road	Forest Hill	MD	21050	madams2753@gmail.com	35	
geoff	beever	1149 Sharon Acres Rd, Forest Hill, MD 21050, USA	Forest Hill	MD	21050	geoff.beever@gmail.com	35	
VINCENT	CAMMARATA	1504 cherokee lane	Bel Air	MD	21015	cam3330@verizon.net	35	
ruth	cassilly	616 Calvary Rd.	Churchville	MD	21028	ruthcassilly@hotmail.com	35	
Veronica	Cassilly	3407 Harmony Church Rd.	Darlington	MD	21034	vcassilly@hotmail.com	35	
Julia	Clark	1414 Wabash Drive	Bel Air	MD	21015	juliajrc@aol.com	35	
theresa	freigh	3216 rocks chrome hill road	Jarrettsville	MD	21084	theresafreigh@gmail.com	35	
Becca	Gardner	3145 E Nobles Mill Rd	Baltimore	MD	21034	deersingerlw@yahoo.com	35	
Thomas	Gibson	810 Lynn Lee Drive	Aberdeen	MD	21001	Gibsonlld@aol.com	35	
Lucy	Godfrey	426 Glenville Rd	Churchville	MD	21028-1419	lucymimika@gmail.com	35	
Patricia	Grimes	4326 prospect rd	Whiteford	MD	21160	g95peteyb@gmail.com	35	
Theresa	Handerhan	2508 Der Valley Way	Bel Air	MD	21015	belairwosumlax@yahoo.com	35	
Faye	Harris	1442 Sharon Acres Road	Forest Hill	MD	21050	freedomfaye@aol.com	35	
Faye	Harris	1442 Sharon Acres Road	Forest Hill	MD	21050	freedomfaye@gmail.com	35	
Debbie	Harris	1442 SHARON ACRES ROAD	FOREST HILL	MD	21050	debharris13@gmail.com	35	
John	Ireland	1618 Dulaney Drive	Jarrettsville	MD	21084	johnireland@zoominternet.net	35	
heidi	Lipple	1415 Beacon ct	Bel Air	MD	21015	heidipicard79@gmail.com	35	
Rich	Norling	PO Box 5850	Darlington	MD	21034	rich.norling@mdsierra.org	35	
Fawn	Palmer	2915 Coale Lane	Churchville	MD	21028	fawnpalmer@gmail.com	35	
Richard	Spigler	208 Holstein Court	Bel Air	MD	21015	birdsandbugs21@gmail.com	35	
Joseph	Stevens	3604 Green Spring Rd.	Havre De Grace	MD	21078	josephstevens@comcast.net	35	
Katlyn	Titus	201 Chesapeake Ridge Lane	North East	MD	21901	Kate82597@gmail.com	35	
Jean	Wheeler	408 Prindle Ct	Bel Air	MD	21015	jswheeler3@verizon.net	35	
Sally	Whitten	1442 Sharon Acres Road	Forest Hill	MD	21050	sallylou611@gmail.com	35	
Meredith	Mohr	7 Maple Ct	Elkton	MD	21921-4003	mmohr@mail.usciences.edu	35A	
Kathy	Shirk	143 Woodall Rd	Perryville	MD	21903-1202	kathybpoqueen@aol.com	35A	
Lisa	Daloia	43 Country Side Loop	Elkton	MD	21921-3308	lisa.daloia@yahoo.com	35A	

Kelsey	Falcone	900 W Creek Village Dr Apt B6	Elkton	MD	21921-4206	kc_falcone@yahoo.com	35A	
Patricia	Brech	56 Admirals Way	Elkton	MD	21921-7054	pabrech1@gmail.com	35A	
Margaret	Dillner	4 Oriole's Nest	Elkton	MD	21921	dillner@comcast.net	35A	
Ronald	Hartman	164 Little Egypt Road	Elkton	MD	21921	cburg232@comcast.net	35A	
Linda	Hunt	60 Mary Anita Court	Elkton	MD	21921	presleysnana2@gmail.com	35A	
Linda	Hunt	60 Mary Anita Court	Elkton	MD	21921	presleysnana2@gmail.cim	35A	
Jane	Schaefer	4 Dare Dr	Elkton	MD	21921	janerschaefer@comcast.net	35A	
John and Mary J	Williams	2 Woodbine Cir	Elkton	MD	21921	j.mj.williams@verizon.net	35A	
Debbie	Harris	1442 Sharon Acres Rd	Forest Hill	MD	21050-1218	debharris13@gmail.com	35B	This amendment is important for all Marylanders, current and future generations. Not protecting our environment causes harmful impacts. I've lived in Harford County for 30+ years and in 2009 was diagnosed with non-hodgkins lymphoma and my oncologist said there is a high incidence of NHL in Maryland. My home is next to farmland where RoundUp is used. My husband died of a brain tumor in 2016. It's time to protect our right to a healthful environment.
Colleen	Barlow	233 Mary Jane Ln	Bel Air	MD	21015-1645	portiasfriend@aol.com	35B	Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. Life itself can not be sustained without Clean Air & Clean Water.
Richard	Norling	3121 E Nobles Mill Rd	Darlington	MD	21034-1614	rich.norling1@gmail.com	35B	
Linda	Just	PO Box 162	Colora	MD	21917-1174	ljustrn@gmail.com	35B	
Stacie	Lally	104 Brer Rabbit Rd	Rising Sun	MD	21911-1047	salally@smcm.edu	35B	
Jessica	Larson	4 Devon Pl	Chesapeake City	MD	21915-1806	jessicalarson12391@gmail.com	36	Please stop killing the only things that matter.
Bente	Cooney	735 Oyster Cove Dr	Grasonville	MD	21638-9603	bentetony1@gmail.com	36	It is the right thing to do for our advanced Maryland state to assure that all its citizens have an equal right to healthy water, air, and land. For example, having healthy drinking water allows residents to drink water from the tap and, therefore, reduces the plastic water bottles that some people are forced to purchase due to unhealthy tap water in their homes.
James	McCloskey	104 Continental Dr	Elkton	MD	21921-6143	mccloskey2@gmail.com	36	I ask that you support adding Environmental Human Rights to the Maryland State Constitution. Securing those rights will protect each person's right to a healthful and stable environment. The state, as trustee of Maryland's natural resources, can preserve them for current and future generations. This right will be a tool to prevent harm and guide decisions, policies and legislation to protect Maryland's natural resources and the health of the public who depend on them. Thank you.
Beverly	Antonio	317 Spaniard Neck Rd	Centreville	MD	21617-2322	niloflightrn@msn.com	36	
Dorothy	Elrod	128 Plum Creek Rd	North East	MD	21901-5351	darelrod@yahoo.com	36	
Elizabeth	Biliske	23556 Gilpin Point Rd	Preston	MD	21655-1841	bjbiliske@gmail.com	36	
Theresa	Newbold	PO Box 365	Saint Marys City	MD	20686-0365	newboldti@icloud.com	36	
Gale And Barbara	Quist	446 Egret Ct	Chestertown	MD	21620-1240	twoquists@verizon.net	36	
Mary	Morris	5449 Eastern Neck Rd	Rock Hall	MD	21661-1662	dawntreader21@protonmail.com	36	
Margaret	Carter	14272 Drapers Mill Rd	Greensboro	MD	21639-1345	mawcarter@verizon.net	36	
Laura	Connor	1305 Oyster Cove Dr	Grasonville	MD	21638-1082	connors41@msn.com	36	
Hope	Clark	4775 Cliffs City Rd	Chestertown	MD	21620	clarkhop@gmail.com	36	
Hope	Clark	4775 Cliffs City RD	Chestertown	MD	21620	hope@climate-xchange.org	36	
Paula	Conoscenti	5 Paca Place	Elkton	MD	21921	paulagc@comcast.net	36	
Greg	DeCowsky	PO Box 478	Rock Hall	MD	21661	greg.decowsky@me.com	36	
Nicholas	DiPasquale	206 N QUEEN STREET	Chestertown	MD	21620	nicholasdi51@yahoo.com	36	
Maryanne	Dolan	104 Milestone Road	Elkton	MD	21921	maryanne.dolan@gmail.com	36	
Richard	Edwards	161 Char Nor Manor Blvd	Chestertown	MD	21620	sassyanntiques@hotmail.com	36	

eva	fulton	9 radley run	Elkton	MD	21921	ehfulton20@gmail.com	36	
Julia	Graham	490 Cormorant Ct	Chestertown	MD	21620	jlakegraham@verizon.net	36	
Allie	Henkels	2625 Grove Neck Rd	Earleville	MD	21919	akhbubble@gmail.com	36	
Genevieve	Henrietta	116 Congressional Dr.	Stevensville	MD	21666	genevievehenrietta116@gmail.com	36	
Sandy	Huffer	200 Corsica Street	Centreville	MD	21617	sandyhuffer308@gmail.com	36	
Deanna	Jacobs	321 Lots rd	Stevensville	MD	21666	dmj101@icloud.com	36	
Parke	John	57 Virginia Ave	North East	MD	21901	parkejohn11@gmail.com	36	
Steven	Jones	836 Pond Neck Rd	Earleville	MD	21919	swjones836@gmail.com	36	
Niya	Khanjar	23 Catherine Dr	Elkton	MD	21921	niyakhanjar@gmail.com	36	
Joy	Mayfield	8980 Tooley Lane	Chestertown	MD	21620	joy.mayfield@comcast.net	36	
Donna	Mistr	327 Elk Nest Dr	North East	MD	21901	damistr@comcast.net	36	
Rhonda	Moore	104 Nichols Manor Dr	Stevensville	MD	21666	mmoore104@aol.com	36	
Russell	Morrissey	109 Carmichael Court	Queenstown	MD	21658	rjm3052@gmail.com	36	
Mary	Rinker	1999 Crystal Beach Rd	Earleville	MD	21919	mcr1999@gmail.com	36	
Doug	Senn	14 Wallamsey Lane	Chesapeake City	MD	21915	senns2@yahoo.com	36	
cameron	spence	6191 dorlon drive	Rock Hall	MD	21661	crspence@loyola.edu	36	
Sumner Hall		206 South Queen Street, Chestertown, MD	Chestertown	MD	21620	info@sumnerhall.org	36	
Judy	Wixted	29592 Skipton Estates Drive	Cordova	MD	21625	jwixted26@gmail.com	37	
Wayne	Bell		66 Easton	MD	21601	wbell2@washcoll.edu	37	
Frank	Carollo	24355 Widgeon Pl, Unit 13	St Michaels	MD	21663	ficarollo@gmail.com	37	
Christy	Cleare	21493 Island Club Rd	Tilghman	MD	21671	christycleare@gmail.com	37	
Constance	Del Nero	610 South St	Easton	MD	21601	italophile13@gmail.com	37	
Carol	Dunahoo	23836 River Street, Quantico, MD	Quantico	MD	21856	dunahooc@gmail.com	37	
Pat	Finley	400 Noble St	Hurlock	MD	21643-3529	pfinley400@gmail.com	37	
Patricia	Finley	400 Noble St	Hurlock	MD	21643-3529	pfinley12@live.com	37	
Margaret	Ford	21 Plum	Easton	MD	21601	pjford21@gmail.com	37	
Ron	Garrison	28195 HEMMERSLEY ST	Easton	MD	21601-7476	rgarrisonus@yahoo.com	37	
Janet	Garrison	28195 Hemmersley St	Easton	MD	21601	jcruiser97@yahoo.com	37	
Randy B.	Gonzalez	21493 Island Club Road	Tilghman	MD	21671	randybgonzalez@gmail.com	37	
Carol	Jelich	28293 AYRES SQ	Easton	MD	21601-7071	carol.jelich@gmail.com	37	
Ruth	Jensen	108 Stewart st	Easton	MD	21601	ruthsjensen@gmail.com	37	
Michele	Johnson	5486 Wellington Drive	Trappe	MD	21673	michelewjohnson@gmail.com	37	
ilyana	kadushin	salisbury	Salisbury	MD	21801	ilyana@lythionmusic.com	37	
Kristen	Lycett	108 Lee Street	Saint Michaels	MD	21663	kristen@phillipsharf.org	37	
Bettye	Maki	7448 Jeffreys Way	Easton	MD	21601	bjmaki04@gmail.com	37	
Finnegan	Merrick	28545 Edgemere Rd	Easton	MD	21601	fmerrick06@gmail.com	37	
Susan	Parker	6425 Loudon Ct.	Salisbury	MD	21801	sparky2955@gmail.com	37	
Robert	Petit	8430 Ingleton Road	Easton	MD	21601	rgpetit@yahoo.com	37	
Robin	Ritchie	30210 Southampton Bridge Road	salisbury	MD	21804	robinbru@aol.com	37	
Nancy	Rogers	4625 Tyaskin Road P O Box 71	Tyaskin	MD	21865	nonnienanticoke@gmail.com	37	
Louise	Sargeant	21584 Punch Point Road	Sherwood	MD	21665	lsarge51@outlook.com	37	
Norman	Saunders	304 Regulator Rd. S.	Cambridge	MD	21613	marshhawk@verizon.net	37	

Frances	Saunders	304 Regulator Dr S	Cambridge	MD	21613	franeasternshore@comcast.net	37	
Merrill	Schuetz	11 ManitoDr.	Cambridge	MD	21613	merrillschuetz@aol.com	37	
suzette	stitley	4335 baildon rd	Trappe	MD	21673	goldensue59@gmail.com	37	
Barbara	Weingarden	8192 Gatherly Cir	Easton	MD	21601	bjw292@gmail.com	37	
Bobbie	Wells	9651 Unionville Road	Easton	MD	21601	wellsbk@yahoo.com	37	
Maris	Wicker	103 Choptank Ter	Cambridge	MD	21613	mariswicker@gmail.com	37	
Annie	Williams	4910 CARDINAL DR	Salisbury	MD	21804	annieaabb@verizon.net	37	
Gay	Wyne	28281 Hemmersley Street	Easton	MD	21601	jgwyne@outlook.com	37	
Linda	Yungbluth	9636 Bantry RD	Easton	MD	21601	lyungbluth@gmail.com	37	
Susan	Olsen	1533 Global Cir	Cambridge	MD	21613-3753	susan.olsen@mdsierra.org	37A	I believe we all deserve a clean and healthy environment. We have to start taking responsibility for our environment. We only have ten years to turn things around according to our government's 5th Assessment.
Madeleine	Adams	203 E. William St	Salisbury	MD	21801	madeleine@wicomicoenvironment.org	37A	
Mary	Ashanti	28684 Ocean Gateway	Salisbury	MD	21801	mary.ashanti1947@comcast.net	37A	
Susan	Olsen	1533 Global Circle	Cambridge	MD	21613	susanolsen5887@gmail.com	37A	
Susan	Olsen	1533 Global Circle	Cambridge	MD	21613	susan.olsen@mdsierra.org	37A	
Elizabeth	Fisher	26349 Tunis Mills Rd	Easton	MD	21601-5525	fisher1@atlanticbb.net	37B	Now that I understand how many people do NOT live in safe, clean places, I support the importance of changing that. And air and water and contaminants in soil do not stay in one place, but migrate to affect more people and animals than just at the originating site. Have to clean it all up for the future.
Mark	Wilson	5314 Ross Neck Rd	Cambridge	MD	21613-3550	butterpotfarm@gmail.com	37B	I think this measure shouldn't be necessary in this day and age, but the unfortunate truth is that many people live in areas that have been allowed to be degraded environmentally because the government gives more weight to business interests than to the health of its citizens.
Barbara	Perry	PO Box 250	Cordova	MD	21625-0250	perrys@atlanticbb.net	37B	As an older person who can remember how long we have been talking about the environment and the need for a healthy one, it is about time to make the connection to human rights and make it a part of the Constitution of Maryland.
Janet	Wheatley	102 Richardson Dr	Cambridge	MD	21613-1130	oakleafcrafters@verizon.net	37B	
Supporter	Unknown	103 Regulator Dr N	Cambridge	MD	21613-1364	dorothy_burchfield@yahoo.com	37B	
Danielle	Dew	6832 Quantico Rd	Hebron	MD	21830-2126	boss lady7718@gmail.com	37B	
Elizabeth	Williams	14 Judas St	Easton	MD	21601-3721	wethbilliams@gmail.com	37B	
Roberta	Maguire	8046 Fox Squirrel Way	Easton	MD	21601-7080	robertadmaguire@gmail.com	37B	
Julia	Hart	105 W Chew Ave	St Michaels	MD	21663-2107	juliaicon89@gmail.com	37B	
Bobbie	Wells	9651 Unionville Rd	Easton	MD	21601-5221	wellsbk@yahoo.com	37B	
Ellie	Walter	29849 Standish St	Easton	MD	21601-5960	walter.ellie@gmail.com	37B	
Cevera	Tucker	506 E Oak Ave	Easton	MD	21601-2500	cevera311@gmail.com	37B	
LAASIA	CESAR	30031 DEANWOOD RD	Princess Anne	MD	21853	laasia.johnson1@gmail.com	38	
Hannah	johnstone	363 schooner lane	Berlin	MD	21811	hannahgracejohnstone@gmail.com	38	
Joan	Maloof	4 Grace St	Berlin	MD	21811	jemaloof@gmail.com	38	
Lucy	Murphy	210 W Market Snow Hill MD	Snow Hill	MD	21863	lucyrosemurphy@gmail.com	38	
Patricia	Valdata	5063 Annemessex Road	Crisfield	MD	21817-2529	pvaldata@charter.net	38	
Jacky	Grindrod	PO Box 826	Berlin	MD	21811-0826	jchg270@aol.com	38A	Your first responsibility is to protect our health and welfare. Make this amendment reality!
Joan	Maloof	4 Grace St	Berlin	MD	21811-1423	joan@oldgrowthforest.net	38A	I want to pass on a beautiful and healthy environment to the next generation. Please vote for this amendment.

Christina	Hulslander	2410 Saint Lukes Rd	Salisbury	MD	21804-9188	hulslanderc@hotmail.com	38A	I have children and I want them to have clean soil, water and air throughout their lifetimes. Environmental Rights should be fundamental rights for our citizens and families!
Ashley	Brown	402 S Morris St	Snow Hill	MD	21863-1143	ashleyebrown1990@gmail.com	38A	
Lynn	Wood	31639 Old Ocean City Rd	Salisbury	MD	21804-1801	dpf9972@yahoo.com	38B	
April	Lewis	400 Gunby Rd	Salisbury	MD	21804-8606	dilmf143@comcast.net	38B	
Judith	Burns	1112 S Schumaker Dr	Salisbury	MD	21804	judithburns91@gmail.com	38B	
Rebecca (becky)	Emery	1218 Frederick Ave.	Salisbury	MD	21801	raemery@salisbury.edu	38B	
Earle	Hatton	400 E Walnut St.	Delmar	MD	21875	subaru1975@yahoo.com	38B	
Amy	Isaacs	1112 S. Schumaker Dr, #201	Salisbury	MD	21804	amypisaacs@gmail.com	38B	
Susan	Jackson-Stein	815 Kearney Ct., Salisbury	Salisbury	MD	21804-9026	sjsalis@verizon.net	38B	
Barry	Johansson	105 Autumn Ln	Fruitland	MD	21826	barryjoh@comcast.net	38B	
Frieda	Malcolm	412 Pine Bluff Rd	Salisbury	MD	21801	pastormalc@comcast.net	38B	
Don	Rutledge	630 pine bluff road	Salisbury	MD	21801	rumblefish300@juno.com	38B	
Dorothy	Smith	323 New York Avenue	Salisbury	MD	21801	dorothy.carol.smith@gmail.com	38B	
michael	walsh	523 LOBLOLLY LN	Salisbury	MD	21801-6855	mik.walsh@comcast.net	38B	
Joseph	Jankowski	11112 Spring Branch Ln	Berlin	MD	21811-3255	josephajankowski@yahoo.com	38C	If we cannot protect our environment we are doomed to suffer the consequences. It will be more cost effective to act now versus cleaning up the mess later.
Robin	Dumler	41 Bramblewood Dr	Berlin	MD	21811-1624	robindumler@gmail.com	38C	
Joan	Worrall	411 136th St Unit B	Ocean City	MD	21842-5911	joanw2729@yahoo.com	38C	
James	Sprows	15 Waters Edge Ct	Berlin	MD	21811-1532	jsprows@yahoo.com	38C	
Pat	Winkelmayer	79 Brandywine Dr	Ocean Pines	MD	21811-1914	winkelmayer@mchsi.com	38C	
Patrick	Trate	171 Nottingham Ln	Berlin	MD	21811-1663	tratey2000@yahoo.com	38C	
Cynthia	Dillon	44 Fort Sumter S	Ocean Pines	MD	21811-3811	cindy.dillon@midsierra.org	38C	
Sean	King	6 Friar Tuck Way	Berlin	MD	21811-2044	kingfarm555@gmail.com	38C	
Mary	Wagner	11901 Wight St Unit 406	Ocean City	MD	21842-2696	brianafwagner@gmail.com	38C	
Janet	BUCCIERE	26 BROOKTON LN	Berlin	MD	21811	bucciereja@gmail.com	38C	
Debbie	Gousha	5 White Horse Drive	Ocean Pines	MD	21811	dgousha@msn.com	38C	
Gloria	Insley	12247Dixie Drive	Bishopville	MD	21813	seahuntocmd@gmail.com	38C	
Gail	Jankowski	11112 Spring Branch Lane	BERLIN	MD	21811	janfam83@gmail.com	38C	
Wayne	Klockner	12504 Whispering Woods Dr	Ocean City	MD	21842	wklockner@gmail.com	38C	
Roberta	Laynor	28 Sloop Lane	Berlin	MD	21811	rlaynor@gmail.com	38C	
Toby	Perkins	11621 Twin Oaks Dr	Berlin	MD	21811	admin@indivisibleworcesterm.org	38C	
Gabby	Ross	PO Box 731	Berlin	MD	21811	coastkeeper@actforbays.org	38C	
Lawrence	Ryan	ST. Peters Lutheran Church, 10301 Coastal Hwy	Berlin	MD	21811	ldryan2@gmail.com	38C	
Rebecca F	Samawicz	The Braemar, 13100 Coastal Hwy, Apt 1410, Ocean City, MD	Ocean City	MD	21842-4692	samawiczr@gmail.com	38C	
Alex	Siegel	703 N Baltimore Ave	Ocean City	MD	21842	ocripcurrent@gmail.com	38C	
Joan	Worrall	411-B 136th St	Ocean City	MD	21842	joanw2729@yahoo.com	38C	
Laraine	Lomberg	12100 Suffolk Ter	Gaithersburg	MD	20878-2041	rainy38@comcast.net	39	This action is WAY OVERDUE! Please SAVE MOTHER EARTH NOW!
Adam	Cunningham	18820 Sky Blue Cir	Germantown	MD	20874-5397	adamformd@gmail.com	39	Not only do I and many others deserve the right to a clean and healthy environment, so do my kids, your kids and all the children in this state.
Patricia	Mcgarry	17309 Flagstone Dr	Germantown	MD	20874-2234	patriciamcgarry1007@yahoo.com	39	
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								The environment is allows humans to breathe. The environment requires diversity and protection, numerous scientific studies show that intact environmental systems are not only necessary, are required for the future. Destroying one niche after another for mining, for logging, squeezing the last of our lands resources to prop up businesses that need endless availability of resources to maintain economic stability that will collapse. Our environment is like Jenga blocks, remove a niche and another nice and the system collapses. What moves into these niches destructive to the land, the waters, the atmosphere. There are limitless possibilities to develop new materials and technologies, there are existing alternatives for energy and building. The United States should be a leader and an example for the future.
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John	McKusick	603 Anneslie Rd	Baltimore	MD	21212-2012	john.ca.mckusick@verizon.net	42A	This amendment to Maryland State Constitution will express the importance and high regard that Marylanders now and in the future have for the health and well being of all of its citizens, residents, and visitors.
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Joseph	Wright	1401 Newport Pl	Lutherville	MD	21093	jmkswright@comcast.net	42B	
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Lois	Hybl	4107 Westview Rd	Baltimore	MD	21218-1456	lhybl@verizon.net	43	We need to stop harming people by neglecting environmental protections.
Richard	Reis	103 W 39th St Apt A2	Baltimore	MD	21210-3162	rich.reis1@gmail.com	43	We need to provide a healthy environment for all Marylanders. I'm especially sensitive because I live in the city of Baltimore as does daughter's family. The air is frequently unhealthy for us and our fellow Baltimoreans.
John	Lemons	2403 Kentucky Ave	Baltimore	MD	21213-1013	jlemons@yahoo.com	43	The next generation - our children deserve the best we can leave for them.
Ellen E	Barfield	814 Powers St	Baltimore	MD	21211-2510	ellene4pj@yahoo.com	43	Should have been done long ago. But better late than never. PLEASE.
Louise	Gregg	5701 Chinquapin Pkwy Apt D	Baltimore	MD	21239-2554	lcbgregg@hotmail.com	43	Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. Have you heard about these values? How can we enjoy our world, the environment, if they are all polluted and we ignore what causes them to be polluted? We need the support of our state to help keep it clean and beautiful for us, our children, grandchildren, and future generations.
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Cynthia	Wagner	512 Collins Ave	Baltimore	MD	21229	crw21228@gmail.com	44A	
Kathleen	Gross	17 Clay Lodge Ln Unit 302	Catonsville	MD	21228-5485	haitikathy@gmail.com	44B	This is critical for all of us and our children and children's children. It is always important because of the environmental justice issues. So many of our poorest residents are suffering because their environment is much more polluted than the environment of affluent areas.
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Cheryl	Thurber	100 Hillside Rd	Catonsville	MD	21228-5518	cthurb@yahoo.com	44B	
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Linda	Wagner	19 Holmehurst Avenue	Catonsville	MD	21228	katpower58@gmail.com	44B	
Nicholas	Rogers	2616 E Madison St	Baltimore	MD	21205-1704	nickyboy1212@yahoo.com	45	Adapting to an environmental crisis that is affecting the way we as a society do things, I think it should taken on a case by case basis and they should do whatever they feel what is the right choice for themselves based on their , that is why environmental human is important me as a student of color trying to navigate the world.
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Bibiana	Medina	4311 Walther Ave	Baltimore	MD	21214	cooknbibi@yahoo.com	45	
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Gary	Therkildsen	3311 Leverton Ave	Baltimore	MD	21224-2227	gtherk@gmail.com	46	Our state government must do everything possible to ensure that every Marylander has clean air to breath, water to drink, and land to live on.
Perish	Barnette	3405 Toone St	Baltimore	MD	21224-5122	tdugg101@gmail.com	46	Do the right thing!
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Dianna	Kessler	550 S La Mirada Dr	Cornville	AZ	86325-5092	dckessler@comcast.net		The fundamental right to clean air, water and land is the most important right for us to protect, create, and make possible. It means we all have to work together to protect the earth, her landscapes, creatures, and people. Adding this right to the Maryland Constitution means that we are committed to protecting the health of our planet and each other in the state of Maryland for not only ourselves, but also for our posterity. Please seek to include it in the Maryland Constitution.
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HB0596_DHarris_MDEHR_fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Debbie Harris

Position: FAV

FROM: Deb Harris
1442 Sharon Acres Road
Forest Hill, MD 21050
443-981-9328
District 35B

RE: HB0596: Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

I've lived in Harford County for almost 30 years. I live next to farm land where corn and soybeans are planted. Roundup is used on the crops.

In 2009 I was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (NHL). My oncologist said NHL was prevalent in the area and he believed it had something to do with the ground water and recommended we filter our well water before drinking or cooking with it. Then in 2015 my husband was diagnosed with Glioblastoma Multiform (GBM); a brain tumor. He died in 2016. We've had multiple pets, numerous cats and a dog. All have died with some form of cancer. And I know we're the lucky ones. Those who live in areas where air pollution is high suffer from numerous health conditions.

The Environmental Human Rights Amendment would bring more awareness to what we are doing with the environment and ultimately the quality of our lives. Don't Marylanders have a right to a safe place to live and work? A clean environment would benefit all Marylanders. It would also increase productivity and, in time, save costs of dealing with health issues due to an unhealthy environment. If HB0596 is passed, Marylanders will get to vote on whether or not they want this right or not. We deserve that chance to decide.

Thank you for your vote!

HB 596 Testimony (Valantine, Diane).pdf

Uploaded by: Diane Valantine

Position: FAV

February 21, 2022

DATE: February 21, 2022
TO: House Environmental Committee
RE: Support for HB 596

I am writing to urge the Maryland General Assembly, specifically the House Environment and Transportation Committee, to advocate for the Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Human Rights by adopting a favorable report of HB 596. It is time to recognize the fundamental right to a healthful and sustainable environment in our constitution. The people of Maryland deserve to live in an environment that reflects their dignity. A constitutional amendment will become a powerful tool for Marylanders to use to fight against pollution and environmental degradation that damages their health, restricts their opportunities, and diminishes their happiness. We must enshrine this right in our constitution now to guide policies that will protect our people and natural resources for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Valantine". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Diane Valantine

15726 Piller Lane
Bowie, MD 20716
202-732-6078
Drappaport60@gmail.cm

HB0596_eherschbach_MDEHR_fav..pdf

Uploaded by: Elisabeth Herschbach

Position: FAV

HB0596: Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights

Sponsored by Delegates W. Fisher, Stewart, Acevero, Boyce, Cardin, Carr, Charkoudian, Charles, Ebersole, Feldmark, Foley, Guyton, Henson, Howell, Kelly, Lehman, J. Lewis, Lopez, Moon, Palakovich Carr, Ruth, Sample-Hughes, Shetty, Smith, Solomon, Terrasa, Toles, Wilkins, and Williams

Written Testimony by Elisabeth Herschbach, Maryland resident, District 22

I am writing to convey my strong support of House bill HB596, which proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland establishing that every person has the fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment.

Climate change and environmental degradation pose an ever-worsening threat to the health of Marylanders across the state, especially in low-income communities and communities of color, where higher levels of pollution and greater concentrations of toxic industrial sites inflict a disproportionate burden.

While the Maryland General Assembly recognized a “fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful environment” in the Maryland Environmental Policy Act of 1973, this policy has been inadequately enforced. And while Maryland has a patchwork of environmental laws already in place, we need stronger protections to tackle the serious environmental problems facing our state. These problems include, among others, worsening heat island effects in our cities, contaminated drinking water, microplastic pollution, fossil fuel–spewing power plants and trash incinerators, pollution from landfills, and poor air quality due to high levels of ground-level ozone and particle pollution. In Baltimore city and Prince George’s County, where rates of asthma and respiratory problems are among the highest in the nation, poor air quality imposes a particularly severe burden on citizens.

Enshrining the fundamental right to a healthy environment in the state constitution will allow us to better protect all Marylanders against environmental harms and to ensure that future generations have access to clean air, water, land and a stable climate. Safeguarding the environment and the health of citizens should be the highest obligation of the government—and not merely an aspirational goal. After all, without a livable environment, no other basic rights are secure. As the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner has asserted, “All human beings depend on the environment in which we live. A safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment is integral to the full enjoyment of a wide range of human rights, including the rights to life, health, food, water and sanitation.”

Several US states have already recognized the right to a healthy environment as a fundamental human right, including Pennsylvania, Montana, Illinois, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York. Environmental rights amendments are also being advanced in New Jersey, New Mexico, Maine, and West Virginia, among other states.

It is time for Maryland to step up for its citizens too. Indeed, a large majority of Marylanders support the idea of an environmental human rights amendment. In a recent poll, 76% of Maryland registered voters were in favor of establishing a constitutional right to a healthful environment. More than half (52%) said that having this amendment on the ballot would encourage them to turn out to vote in the November general election.

Please help to protect the health and environment of all Marylanders by supporting an environmental human rights amendment to the state constitution. Marylanders are counting on you.

HB596_Dahl_Fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Elizabeth Dahl

Position: FAV

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Testimony on: HB 596 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 23, 2022

I am a parent, a scientist, and a teacher and I am writing in support of the Environmental Human Rights Amendment to the Maryland State Constitution. This amendment will protect the rights of all Marylanders to live in a healthful environment both now and in the future.

As a scientist – I have been studying the Earth system for over 25 years. I have seen the changes in the systems I study both in the data and in the observations. The planet is changing. I have been teaching college students about these changes for 16 years and I have seen students become gradually more worried about their current and future environment over my years of teaching. A strength of this amendment is it compels the state to protect the environment for current and future generations.

When I teach about the disproportionate burden of pollution on the people of Baltimore, students start to recognize all the places and things they've seen over the years that connect pollution and the social and economic consequences. They constantly ask me why this is allowed, why people aren't protected when they should be. It is clear to them that everyone has the right to a safe and healthful environment, so they do not understand why that right isn't protected and when I stop and think about it – I don't understand it either. It is a fundamental right.

This amendment codifies this fundamental right in our constitution. It will empower individuals and communities protect their health and compel the state to protect the natural resources that we all rely on. Currently the state laws allow harm on a case-by-case basis and do not consider the cumulative effects. For example, I recently advised a community asking for help on preventing a new incineration source in their neighborhood. This community already suffers from the cumulative impacts of emissions, but despite their efforts, they were unable to prevent the approval of the permits despite the widespread community opposition and health concerns. Why should this community bear a disproportionate burden of the health impacts of pollution?

This amendment will ensure environmental rights are given the same protection as other rights. This amendment provides the foundation for communities to seek environmental protections when their rights have been infringed upon by the government. Most environmental laws in Maryland adopt a review, permitting, and management approach rather than focus on prevention as in the example I cited. This amendment will address these deficiencies by enacting overarching protections.

In addition, this amendment is widely supported by the Maryland voters, and they deserve the opportunity to vote on it.

Elizabeth Dahl

Parkville MD 21234-5839

professordahl@gmail.com

HB 596 - CLA Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Evan Isaacson

Position: FAV



Support for House Bill 596

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee:

The Chesapeake Legal Alliance (CLA) strongly supports HB 596, a proposed amendment to the Maryland constitution that would grant the right to a healthful and sustainable environment for present and future generations. CLA firmly believes that Marylanders deserve to have a constitutional right to a healthful and sustainable environment and that this amendment will serve as the foundation of a legal framework that will be necessary to allow Maryland's environment and economy to survive as the worsening impacts of climate change accelerate in the coming decades.

Based upon our understanding of the proposed constitutional amendment and some of the concerns of those opposed to legislation to introduce a similar amendment in previous legislative sessions, we offer the following thoughts for the committee's consideration.

- ❖ HB 596 declares that the State must serve as the trustee of Maryland's natural resources, imposing a basic duty on the State to protect the resources that Marylanders rely on for recreational use and their livelihoods. The creation of this duty is especially important for communities unjustly shouldering a disproportionate environmental burden due to previous government decisions, and whose concerns about environmental injustice have historically been overlooked by government agencies.
- ❖ A constitutional amendment is critical to give future generations a powerful tool to combat the climate crisis. The state, federal, and academic experts studying the Chesapeake Bay watershed have already quantified the growing impacts of climate change on water quality in the watershed, as well as other impacts. Despite these substantial impacts, agencies' responses to date have been comparatively modest, perhaps stifled in part by a lack of focus that this constitutional amendment would undoubtedly instill. The Biden Administration has announced a "whole of government" approach to dealing with the existential issue posed by climate change; this amendment could effectively ensure such an approach is constitutionalized permanently in Maryland.
- ❖ Maryland has enacted a number of important laws to protect public health and the environment in recent decades. But history has shown how easily these laws can be ignored by the agencies charged with executing them. Moreover, because of some of the strictest standing doctrines in the nation, Marylanders have quite limited access to justice, especially in matters of

environmental protection. Additionally, unlike federal environmental laws, most of Maryland's important environmental statutes were not accompanied by rights enabling Marylanders to enforce the law. Once again, history, especially recent experience, proves that we cannot sit back and rely upon agencies to protect Marylanders and their environment in the way that the General Assembly expects them to or in a way that Marylanders deserve. As such, passing HB 596 will fill the existing gaps and knock down some of the existing obstacles that have been standing in the way of achieving our most important environmental goals and protecting our health and environment from harm.

- ❖ A favorable vote for HB 596 does not mean industrial or economic development will be hindered. In other states where an environmental rights amendment was adopted, we have not seen any discernible impact on economic activity. In fact, over the long run, it seems quite likely that implementing laws and policies consistent with a charge to focus on long-term sustainability will have the effect of guiding the state economy in a positive direction. For example, climate impacts will continue to devastate private and public property and stunt economic activity, with commensurate fiscal impacts. If government agencies are providing appropriate attention to harmonizing their policy choices with climate resilience and broader sustainability in mind, their actions will promote economic growth by minimizing exposure to future catastrophes that will otherwise inevitably devalue public and private infrastructure and assets.
- ❖ A constitutional amendment in Maryland will not have any fundamental negative impacts on our economy, but it will shape how our government agencies are held accountable for the decisions they make. For example, government agency decisions are currently held to a relatively low legal standard of being rational and not arbitrary, capricious, or directly contrary to statute. This amendment would indirectly impose a higher standard of accountability for agencies, requiring some degree of consideration of whether a decision impacting public health and environmental sustainability are contrary to the government's constitutional trustee duty. The constitutional amendment will provide a separate lens with which to examine the rationality of agency decisions. Agency actions that are hard to justify in light of a constitutional trustee duty will need to be adjusted to withstand judicial scrutiny.
- ❖ A favorable vote for HB 596 will not "open the floodgates" with frivolous litigation in Maryland courts. This has been a common refrain used by opponents of so many environmental bills over the years. Instead, we see time and again that the passage of environmental laws does not equate to any of the doomsday scenarios claimed. Floodgates of litigation have not opened here in Maryland from other past environmental legislation, nor are we aware of any states with an environmental rights amendment that saw a surge of litigation.

If we were forced to speculate as to what would happen should the constitution be amended in accordance with HB 596, assuming the courts give effect to the intent of this bill to provide a self-executing right, we believe we would see a relatively small number of cases brought under

the constitution with an offsetting decrease in litigation under various environmental statutes and other causes of action, as a small number of aggrieved parties look to the constitutional amendment rather than a separate statute; most often, we anticipate a constitutional claim being brought alongside statutory claims in the same case, which would not increase the number of cases brought. From the perspective of Maryland courts, any impact on the overall volume of litigation would likely be negligible, whereas from the perspective of individual Marylanders and the overall interest of justice, we would likely see more successful outcomes for those aggrieved by flawed or short-sighted government actions that harm our commonly held natural resources, exacerbate climate change, or otherwise make Maryland a less sustainable place to live. Moreover, the amendment would provide tools for courts to better evaluate existing and future cases based on similar claims, but would now give clear and comprehensive goals for potentially disparate environmental issues.

- ❖ HB 596 will fill the gaps created by the Maryland Environmental Policy Act (“MEPA”) and the Maryland Environmental Standing Act (“MESA”). The experience with MESA is instructive. It is a potentially potent legal tool for environmental protection (albeit quite limited in its scope) yet the floodgates of litigation under MESA never opened. To the contrary, there have been fewer than one case per decade under MESA. Like MESA, MEPA has been an under-utilized statute, in part because the lofty goals of the law were undermined by a lack of government implementation of the law. In fact, neither the Department of the Environment or Department of Natural Resources have ever even written the required regulations to implement MEPA - an issue that itself could be resolved with the constitutional right in place. Even if MEPA was given full effect and MESA was expanded to make it a more useful and relevant tool, both statutes combined would not amount to the same degree of protection afforded to Marylanders or the same value for ensuring the State remains a habitable and vibrant place to live into the next Century as would this constitutional amendment.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB 596 and stand ready to assist by answering any questions you may have about the impact that an environmental rights amendment would have. For additional information, you may contact Staff Attorney Evan Isaacson at evan@chesapeakelegal.org.

Kury Testimony Final SC.pdf

Uploaded by: Franklin Kury

Position: FAV

Testimony of Franklin L. Kury
Maryland House of Delegates
Committee on the Environment and Transportation
Annapolis, Maryland

**HB596 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights
Favorable**

February 23, 2022

I am Franklin Kury, the author and chief sponsor of an environmental rights amendment that passed the Pennsylvania legislature with complete bi-partisan support and was approved by the voters in 1971 by a 4 to1 margin.

In the 50 years since its approval, I have followed the workings of this amendment closely.

With that knowledge, I urge you to adopt House Bill 596.

This proposal would add two basic principles to Maryland's framework of government.

First, it will give its people the right to a healthy environment on the same plane as the right to free speech, freedom of religion etc. In other words, the right to a healthy environment is a fundamental human right.

The proposal also makes the State the trustee of the State's natural resources. By doing so, it incorporates into the fundamental law of Maryland the ancient public trust doctrine that has been part of common-law since Roman times.

Based on this half-century of “road testing,” I would like to comment on some of the opposition points raised against HB596.

First, the fear that this proposal will engender a flood of litigation that will clog the judicial dockets. Pennsylvania has not seen a flood of litigation to implement the amendment.

Of course there has been some litigation in Pennsylvania, but nothing like a flood. There were a handful of cases over five decades that resulted in State Supreme Court decisions which clarified the State's role as trustee of the State's natural resources and citizens' rights to seek enforcement of it through the courts. There was no sudden flooding of litigation in Pennsylvania.

Secondly, the Pennsylvania amendment did not infringe on private property rights. Owners of property continue to develop and utilize their land for profit, but they cannot use their property in such a way as to damage the environmental condition of others.

Importantly, developers of projects that would impact the environment now plan in advance for the impact their projects will have on the environment and act appropriately under appropriate state law.

Of course the proposed amendment will change things. That is its intent. We cannot continue to go on as we are. But neither Pennsylvania nor Montana nor Hawaii (states with similar environmental provisions) has experienced any unforeseen consequences that some had feared.

I retired from the legislature in 1980, having served six years in the House and eight in the Senate. As I look back at my 14 years in the legislature, nothing has given me a greater sense of satisfaction than Article 1, Section 27. It has been a remarkable experience, to draft and enact the amendment and then see being it used by the courts.

I feel really good about it.

I will be pleased to answer questions.

Thank you.

HB596finalgwen Human Rights amendment testimony223

Uploaded by: Gwen DuBois

Position: FAV



HB0596 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

Hearing before the House Environment and Transportation Committee,
Feb. 23, 2022

Position: SUPPORT (FAV)

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility (CPSR) is statewide evidenced-based, organization of over 900 physicians, other health professionals and supporters, that addresses the existential public health threats: nuclear weapons, the climate crisis and the issues of pollution and toxics' effect on health as seen through the intersectional lens of environmental, social and racial justice. As an organization founded by physicians, we understand that prevention is far superior to treatment in reducing costs; death, illness, injury, and suffering

HB596, if passed and approved by voters in November, would create Constitutional Environmental rights for Marylanders: "That each person has a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment, and said right shall not be infringed. That the State, as trustee, shall protect, conserve, and enhance Maryland's natural resources, including its air, lands, waters, wildlife, and ecosystems, for the benefit of both present and future generations."

Like the right to free speech, the Amendment would give Marylanders, including in minority communities long burdened with environmental injustices, the right to expect state and local governments to consider their right to a healthy environment when issuing and enforcing permits and regulations.

Three quarters of the nations on this planet have a Constitutional right to a clean and healthy environment, but not the United States.¹ Seven states have Constitutional environmental protections of which three have the protections in their state Bill of Rights including most recently New York State. Maryland is one of a number of additional states that have proposed environmental amendments.²

¹ <http://blogs.law.columbia.edu/climatechange/2021/08/31/environmental-rights-in-state-constitutions/>

² <https://www.bdlaw.com/publications/new-york-becomes-the-third-state-to-adopt-a-constitutional-green-amendment/>

Concerns about a floodgate of litigation have not materialized.³

New York State Bar Association study concluded that “states that recognize a robust, self-executing environmental right have not experienced a radical or undesirable shift of environmental policymaking authority to the judiciary.”⁴ In Maryland, if this environmental rights amendment passes, the State and not private corporations would be held legally responsible.⁵

Pollution is expensive. The Thurston report in 2017 estimated direct and indirect health costs for Marylanders for one year of fine and ultrafine particulate matter emissions (pm2.5) from the BRESCO incinerator was nearly \$22 million.⁶ A study out of Mt. Sinai in 2005 estimated that the cohort of children born in the United States in 2000 will have lost a lifetime collective earnings of \$1.5 billion due to the effects of mercury exposure in utero attributable to United States power plants.⁷ The numbers are even higher for lead poisoning.⁸

Citizens who have struggled for years to stop polluters coming into their neighborhood have commented how helpful such an amendment would be.⁹ I know from my experience with Curtis Bay, particularly zip code, 21226, which has had the most stationary sources of air pollution in the State, once #8 in country, and as recently as 2017 named by a national realty report as the third most polluted zip code in the country.¹⁰ It is home to coal piers, coal ash piles, the largest medical waste incinerator in the country and at least 6 chemical companies and 3 petroleum terminals.¹¹ In 2012, after discovering an out of state company, Energy Answers, was planning to build a new waste incinerator in 21226, just 1 mile from their school (as well as from an elementary school), students at Ben Franklin High began organizing against this newest source of pollution., which would have been the largest trash-burning incinerator in the United States, planning to burn plastic, rubber, vinyl and metal.¹² Though incinerators are not supposed to be within 3 miles of a school, by being called a waste to energy facility, it received a permit from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) which kept renewing its permit despite delays that violated its terms. Students partnered with environmentalists, community organizers, and neighbors for petition drives, rallies, marches

³ <https://www.marylandmatters.org/2021/11/29/supporters-launch-a-renewed-push-for-environmental-human-rights-amendment/>

⁴ <https://www.arnoldporter.com/-/media/files/perspectives/publications/2017/10/debate-over-environmental-rights-and-state-constitutional-convention.pdf>

⁵ https://www.bayjournal.com/news/policy/push-is-on-for-green-amendments-in-four-bay-state-constitutions/article_6bea6c4e-de78-11eb-a03e-37aac2b667b0.html

⁶ <https://www.cbf.org/document-library/state-legislative-testimony/wheelabrator-thurston-wheelabrator-health-impacts-2017.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1257552/>

⁸ https://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/assets/2010/02/22/063_10_paes-costs-of-lead-poisoning-brief_web.pdf

⁹ <https://www.marylandmatters.org/2021/11/29/supporters-launch-a-renewed-push-for-environmental-human-rights-amendment/>

¹⁰ <https://rtracdev.wpengine.com/blog/2016-environmental-hazard-housing-risk-index/>

¹¹ <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/24082020/baltimore-maryland-waste-to-energy/> and <https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program>

¹² <https://chesapeakeclimate.org/maryland/incinerators/curtis-bay/>

and eventually a sit in at the office of the Secretary of the Environment. Finally, MDE pulled the permit in 2016 before it was able to start building, thankfully before it started spewing particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, heavy metals and other harmful pollutants associated with heart disease, asthma, other respiratory ailments, and lung cancer. Mercury and lead are associated with neurological impairment including loss of IQ in children (the permit would have allowed up to 1000 lb of lead yearly released into the air).¹³ One student at Ben Franklin received the Goldman International Environmental Prize for North America for this work.

But it shouldn't have taken so much struggle and years to achieve. And they could have lost, as many communities have, had Energy Answers lined up enough customers sooner. Without environmental rights, citizens in places like Curtis Bay, Dundalk, and Brandywine PGC less than 15 minutes from 4 coal fire power plants, have few options as permits are granted without attention to the health risks. In already overburdened, usually minority and low-income neighborhoods, this disregard is called environmental injustice. This bill will allow voters to decide if there is a constitutional right for everyone, including families with children, to be raised in a healthy environment whether or not they cannot afford to purchase a home elsewhere.

When we damage our environment, we imperil our health. Toxic chemicals mess with our endocrine system, reduce immunity, affect fertility, cause neurologic damage.¹⁴ The regulated criteria pollutants ozone and particulate matter are associated with increased mortality and fine particulate matter is additionally linked to lung cancer, heart disease, asthma, chronic lung disease, as well as increased mortality.¹⁵ The sources of air pollution are largely from fossil fuels, that are also a source of greenhouse gases.¹⁶ Climate chaos driven droughts, heat waves, and floods and fires are deadly. We are destroying our food source as we harm animals, and plants. There are related changes in infectious diseases, especially vector-borne diseases.¹⁷ COVID 19 morbidity has been linked to both toxic air pollutants and the criteria pollutants like particulate matter and nitrogen oxides.¹⁸ Our environment is our home. We all have a stake in protecting it.

With an environmental rights amendment, we will have one more tool to help in this urgent and important work. Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility strongly supports HB0596.

Gwen L. DuBois MD, MPH
President, Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
gdubois@jhsph.edu

¹³ <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-03-22/state-regulators-scrap-baltimore-waste-to-energy-incinerator-plan>

¹⁴ <https://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/topics/agents/endocrine/index.cfm#:~:text=Endocrine%20disruptors%20are%20found%20in,break%2Ddown%20in%20the%20environment.>

¹⁵ <https://www.epa.gov/particle-pollution-and-your-patients-health/health-effects-pm-patients-lung-disease>

¹⁶ <https://www.nejm.org/doi/10.1056/NEJMra2030281>

¹⁷ <https://www.pnas.org/content/110/47/18753>

¹⁸ <https://www.lung.org/blog/covid-19-mortality-and-air-pollution>

2022-02-23 HB 596 (Support).pdf

Uploaded by: Hannibal Kemerer

Position: FAV

BRIAN E. FROSH
Attorney General



ELIZABETH F. HARRIS
Chief Deputy Attorney General

CAROLYN QUATTROCKI
Deputy Attorney General

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FACSIMILE NO.

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NO.

443-463-0751

February 23, 2022

To: The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

From: Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer
Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

Re: HB 596 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights – **Support**

The Office of Attorney General urges this Committee to favorably report HB 596. If passed and approved by the voters, the bill would establish that every person has the fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment. House Bill 596 further requires the State of Maryland to serve as a trustee of the State's air, land, water, wildlife, and ecosystems' natural resources, and to conserve, protect, and enhance the State's natural resources to the benefit of all persons, including future generations.

Members of the General Assembly have introduced similar bills in 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021. If the Bill is approved by three fifths of the House and the Senate, the proposed amendment would be submitted to Maryland's voters for approval by a majority vote in the November 2022 general election. Page 2, Lines 22-24. MD. CONST. art. XIV, § 1.

Article 48 would endow each person with a right to "a healthful and sustainable environment" and designate the State of Maryland as trustee of "State natural resources" for current and future generations. As a trustee, the State would assume certain duties and obligations to act in the public's best interest consistent with Article 48. The rights and obligations arising under Article 48 would govern State action (laws, regulations, actions, policies, and decisions by the State of Maryland and its instrumentalities), not private action (activities of companies, individuals, and other third parties who are not affiliated with the State). However, by governing State action, Article 48 would affect private parties whose actions are governed by the State. Article 48 may also give rise to new legal causes of action and new requirements for State authority. Fundamentally, Article 48 raises

questions about environmental rights, the public trust doctrine, and the State's obligations to the public.¹

Article 48 would establish significant and important rights for individuals and designate the State as a trustee of the State's natural resources. These are laudable goals, worthy of our support.

For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General urges a favorable report of House Bill 596.

cc: Committee Members

¹ At least five (5) other States have enacted environmental amendments in their State Constitutions, including: Pennsylvania (PA. CONST. Art. I § 27.); Montana (MONT. CONST. Art. IX § 1.); Illinois (ILL. CONST. Art. XI, § 2.); Massachusetts (MASS. CONST., Part the First, Art. XCVII.); Hawaii (HAW. CONST. Art. XI § 9.).

Support HB596 BBP 2022.pdf

Uploaded by: Harry MacGillis

Position: FAV



February 21, 2022

Testimony Supporting HB596

Dear members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee,

This letter is in support of HB596, Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights. Baltimore Beyond Plastic is a youth-led, action-oriented organization dedicated to merging public health, environmental advocacy, and legislation to change the world. We are a team of Baltimore City Public School students representing four different city schools, and have grown up experiencing the lack of environmental awareness and action first-hand. Students in Baltimore are not been given the information we need to understand the environmental challenges we're facing, much less to address them. Many students struggle with a lack of knowledge about our environment and what's happening around us, we have had to go out of our way to gain this information and understand what it would take to live in an environmentally healthy way and have an environmentally healthy society.

Title 26 of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) lists numerous restrictions and regulations regarding environmental well-being in Maryland. However, what Title 26, nor any Maryland law, does not include is a person's fundamental right to a healthy environment. Bill HB596 would create a human rights amendment in the state Bill of Rights which would entitle all Marylanders to the essential aspects of a healthy environment, such as clean air and water. Furthermore, Bill HB596 would assist the fight against environmental injustice affecting low-income communities, an issue that our organization sees from a close perspective in Baltimore City. The amendment would give communities impacted by environmental pollution the legal grounds to confront the organizations and corporations responsible.

Multiple members of our group have read *The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming* by David Wallace-Wells, which details twelve different ways that it would be easy to feel hopeless looking at these potential futures, but rather than giving up we need to use this knowledge to jumpstart the fight against climate change. We are hoping that the Environmental Human Rights Amendment can move us forward in that fight. Please support this important bill!

Thank you for your time,
Baltimore Beyond Plastic
morebeyondplastic@gmail.com

Heidi SP Testimony .pdf

Uploaded by: Heidi Schreiber- Pan

Position: FAV

**In Support of the Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Human Rights
HB596/SB783**

House Hearing: Feb 23 at 1pm, Environment & Transportation Committee

Senate Hearing: Mar 9 at 1pm, Judicial Proceedings

Maryland General Assembly

My name is Dr. Heidi Schreiber-Pan; I have a PHD in clinical mental health counseling and am a licensed clinical professional counselor in the state of Maryland. I am the executive director of Chesapeake Mental Health in Towson and founder of the Center for Nature Informed Therapy, a division of Chesapeake Mental Health.

I have investigated the intersection of nature and mental health for the past 12 years, and in particular my research interest has focused on the role of nature on psychological well-being.

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony in support of this amendment which aims to support a person's right to a healthy environment. As a mental health expert, I strongly support this notion which I believe represents an important first step in reclaiming the deep connection between nature and mental wellbeing.

As research studies accumulate, the link between exposure to green and blue spaces and mental health is evidence-based and undeniable. The most robust correlation is on the benefits of nature connection and decrease of anxiety and stress. This is, in part, due to green and blue spaces affecting our physiology. Environments rich in plant life and bodies of water reduce our sympathetic nervous system's response within minutes.

According to new research, connection to nature has helped many people with mental health issues during the pandemic. People who increased their time in nature during the Covid-19 outbreak reported greater psychological well-being than those who spent more time indoors.

In my clinical practice, my expertise lies within the treatment of anxiety and stress disorders, which I have found are frequently a direct response to an over-stimulated mind. Green spaces provide a strong protective factor against stress related issues due to the restorative qualities of the natural world.

Research published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences found that individuals growing up with the least green space nearby had an over 50% increased risk for developing depression, anxiety and substance abuse.

It is important to mention here that environmental degradation such as depletion of air or water quality and habitat destruction have now entered the mental health world. The American Psychological Association has used the term “eco-anxiety” to describe an intense chronic fear regarding the health of our home planet. The APA is going as far as naming environmental degradation as a source of trauma. Recently two of my patients discussed in therapy their decision not to have children as they fear that their offspring would have to struggle through a climate apocalypse.

In summary, the mental health of our communities is negatively impacted by the lack of healthy green and blue spaces. Anxiety, depression, and violence impacts our lives in big and small ways every single day. Individuals’ mental health needs must be taken into consideration as we create new laws and policies. Healthy outdoor spaces have the power to transform our hurting communities in a formidable way: a wholesome relationship to the natural world will give rise to healthy neighborhoods and our society as a whole. That is why I support this Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Human Rights.

Thank you.

HB0596_IoanaStoica_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Ioana Stoica

Position: FAV

February 23, 2022

Ioana Stoica
Laurel, MD 20707

TESTIMONY ON HB0596 – POSITION: FAVORABLE
Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

TO: Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Ioana Stoica

My name is Ioana Stoica. I am a resident of District 21. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#0596, which would establish a constitutional amendment that would affirm the fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful environment with access to clean air, water, land and a stable climate. A constitutional right, as opposed to a regular law, would ensure that environmental protection is the highest obligation of the government, and not merely an aspirational goal.

As a new parent, and as a teacher, I am called to consider our future generations in enacting present choices. Pollution and environmental degradation are damaging the health of our children – life expectancy is decreasing, in large part due to the multifaceted effects of climate change. In addition, cases of certain cancers, asthma, and other linked conditions are on the rise. My close family member, a young woman, is currently in remission from bladder cancer; this type of growth is uncommon in younger people, and in women, but studies are showing an increasing prevalence that is linked to air pollution.

The environmental human rights amendment would allow Maryland to be a healthier place to live through the reduction of environmental harms, and would help prioritize environmental concerns in future legislation and development. It would also help protect communities of color and low-income neighborhoods, which currently unfairly bear the disproportionate burden of environmental pollution and degradation and the resulting health disparities. This is a moral issue: our state must choose to put the interests the health of Marylanders, and the future of our children, first.

According to the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, “All human beings depend on the environment in which we live. A safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment is integral to the full enjoyment of a wide range of human rights, including the rights to life, health, food, water and sanitation. Without a healthy environment, we are unable to fulfil our aspirations. We may not have access to even the minimum standards of human dignity.” **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB0596.**

Thank you,

Ioana Stoica

Cleghorn Testimony HB 596 E&T Committee 2-23-22 WR

Uploaded by: J. Stephen Cleghorn

Position: FAV

Hearing before House Committee on Environment and Transportation
Maryland General Assembly
February 23, 2022
Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights (HB 596)
Position: Favorable

Dear Chairman Barve and members of the committee:

As a member of Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home, a group of lay and religious Maryland Catholics who are advocating for care of the Earth, our common home, which also means care for the poor who are harmed most and first by environmental degradation and climate change, I am registering a “FAVORABLE” opinion on HB 596, *Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights* (HB 596).

The language of HB 596 echoes key themes in Catholic social teachings and is in harmony with various elements of Pope Francis’s encyclical *Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home* (LS). Its emphasis on an “inalienable right” to a healthy environment fits squarely with Catholic social teaching on the dignity of the human person and our responsibilities for future generations. Its description of “natural resources” echoes the Church’s teaching that the “gifts of the earth belong to everyone” (LS, p. 71). Likewise, the Amendment addresses the important issue of accountability (LS, p. 61) by ensuring that matters of environmental justice can be legally addressed by all of Maryland’s diverse citizenry.

As I am sure you know, environmental pollution and degradation, with their attendant poor health outcomes, have been inequitably concentrated in communities of color and low-income neighborhoods across Maryland. This is precisely the matter of social justice that Pope Francis has in mind when he couples his plea to “hear the cry of the Earth” with his plea to “hear the cry of the poor.”

So, you have my prayers to be of good courage in passing this bill, as it may be a heavy lift politically, given that those who are despoiling our environment and degrading our climate, and who thus are stealing the future from our children (sadly even their own children), are short-sighted but powerful people. They will oppose this Amendment with spurious arguments that it will open the floodgates to litigation or be bad for business and the economy. It will not. Such amendments in other states have not had that impact. Opponents of the Amendment can nevertheless be expected to resist yielding power to the people being harmed by their industries.

Therefore, the people of Maryland must count on their legislators to stand up for them. Maryland citizens must be afforded the opportunity by their legislators to go to the polls in November to codify in law a right they already possess as human beings, as creatures made in the image and likeness of God. We need to create a constitutional check on the raw power of those who are despoiling our air and water, laying waste to our natural resources, and making Marylanders sick, in some cases sending them to an early grave, all for private profit. The polluters have historically had an unfair advantage in shaping the laws to legalize the harms they cause and put the burden of remediation on Maryland citizens and taxpayers. They have more time and money available to push for their economic interests. They are happy to deal and trade in piecemeal

regulations that amount to a permission to pollute rather than being confronted with the proposition that all human beings possess an inalienable right to clean air, clean water and the protection of the climate and ecosystems that sustain their lives. Any worthy legislation that truly cares for our common home must be rooted in this fundamental human right.

Who can be against codifying in law a right we already possess as human beings, having been endowed with this right by God our Creator? Would Amendment opponents dare to say out loud that their constituents do not have such a right?

Thank you for reading and may God bless all your efforts to care for the only home we have.

J. Stephen Cleghorn
4000 N. Charles St. – Unit 804
Baltimore, MD 21218
814-932-6761

Mayor Day HB 596 FAV Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Jacob Day

Position: FAV



City of
Salisbury
Jacob R. Day, Mayor

23 February 2022

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Testimony on: HB 596 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

Position: Favorable

Dear Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

As you consider the merits of **HB 596**, I ask that you support this vital legislation and vote to give **HB 596** a **Favorable** Committee report.

The City of Salisbury supports a Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Rights. This amendment would prioritize statewide climate action by protecting Marylanders' individual and collective rights to a healthful environment. This bill is essential as it establishes a right to a healthful environment while helping to preserve our pristine environment and natural resources for the benefit of future generations.

This Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Rights would enable communities, individuals, and governments to safeguard public health and safety while also helping to fill in the gaps to provide additional protections where current statutes and regulations may fall short. All Marylanders would benefit from the recognition of a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment; we must recognize this right by enshrining it as an amendment to the Maryland State Constitution.

As the Capital of the Eastern Shore, residents of our city have first-hand experience in contending with the effects of climate change. Whether faced with soil erosion in our tidal areas or the heavy flooding that has become synonymous with major storms, although we remain versatile, we recognize that now is the time to take meaningful action as we respond to environmental hazards that threaten the health of our Eastern Shore. Here in Salisbury, we are on the frontlines of the battle against climate change as we continue to promote environmental stewardship and sustainable practices through the transformative work of our Green Team, whose members work to develop projects and policies that foster an atmosphere of social and environmental responsibility across Salisbury and the Lower Eastern Shore. HB 596 will allow Maryland to stand as a leader at the vanguard of climate action as we recognize our presumed natural right to a healthful environment as a constitutional right, protected under the law for the benefit of both our individual and collective wellbeing.

An Environmental Rights Constitutional Amendment would effectuate much-needed climate action that will protect the environmental rights of all Marylanders. I ask for your **support** of **HB 596** as we work to advance environmental human rights.

Respectfully,

Jacob R. Day
Mayor

EHRA House ENT Feb 2022.pdf

Uploaded by: Jodi Rose

Position: FAV

February 21, 2022

Chairman Kumar Barve and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

House Bill 596 – Environmental Human Rights Amendment

Position: **FAVORABLE**

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

The undersigned groups representing diverse communities of faith in Maryland testify our support of House Bill 596 to amend our constitution with an Environmental Human Rights Amendment.

All people have a fundamental right to clean air, clean water, unpolluted soil, and a stable climate. Period. A healthy environment is essential for all life and thus should be on equal footing with all other rights. At the time Maryland's Constitution was written, its drafters could not fathom that the clean water or clean air would be threatened in the ways it is today. **It is our responsibility to ensure the Maryland Constitutions protects the rights of Marylanders today.**

Sacrifice zones are immoral and an abuse of power, and are where oppressed communities disproportionately bear the burden of unwanted waste and pollution. It becomes a moral issue when our state chooses to put the interests of industry over the health of its citizens, especially of marginalized communities. This amendment would establish basic rights for all people to sound the alarm and stop this abuse in their neighborhoods.

In the Kresson neighborhood in Baltimore, there are dangerous remnants from decommissioned transformers¹ amid a host of industrial sites situated right in the middle of a residential neighborhood. This community is 61% Hispanic², with 22% of children living below the poverty line³, and 47% of residents having less than a high school degree⁴. There are examples of this sort of environmental injustice throughout Maryland, from abandoned brownfields in Baltimore, to polluting power plants in Prince George's County, to polluted well water in Salisbury. **Environmental laws often fail vulnerable communities. An enshrined right to a healthy environment would empower communities to fight for the Maryland we all know is possible.**

Opponents of this bill will argue that regulations already protect the environment, or if they are flawed, there are processes in place to strengthen existing laws. However, new harmful chemicals emerge all the time (a prime example being forever chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly referred to as "PFAS"), but it can take years for regulations to be enacted and the damage is already done. Well-designed regulations go unenforced, leaving the burden to citizens to fight on their own. Companies go bankrupt, leaving a trail of destruction in their path that taxpayers must deal with. **This bill would level the playing field for citizens to pursue their rights, even when Maryland's laws fail them.**

¹ Glenn Ross, neighborhood advocate and organizer of "Toxic Tours" in Baltimore,

<https://baltimorefishbowl.com/stories/take-a-toxic-tour-of-baltimores-scariest-environmental-problems/>

² 2020 Census Preliminary Demographics Data Explorer by Neighborhood Statistical Area, Baltimore City Department of Planning Policy & Data Analysis Division

³ Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance

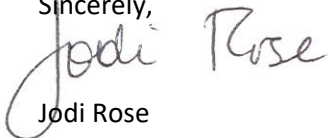
⁴ Baltimore City Planning Department's Neighborhood Profile using American Community Statistical data:

<https://planning.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/KRESSON.PDF>

As chairman of the Environment and Transportation Committee, you have the ability to bring the Environmental Human Rights Amendment before the legislature this year. We ask you to move forward on HB 596 so that all Marylanders have a right to a healthy and clean environment with clean air and water.

It was wonderful of you to speak at our Celebrate Chesapeake Champions event at the Maritime Museum last summer where we talked about these very same liberties. Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake and our partners stand ready to work with you on all matters of Environmental Justice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jodi Rose".

Jodi Rose
Executive Director
Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake
7 Willow Street, 2nd Floor
Annapolis, MD 21401

Additional Signers:

Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home
Bob Simon, Co-Chair
Counties surrounding Washington DC

St. Margaret's Episcopal Church
Annapolis, MD
Rev. Peter Mayer, Rector
Rev. Patti Sachs, Associate Rector

Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church
Mike Koob, Chair, Creation Care Action & Advocacy Team

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church
Bethesda, MD
Lee McNair, Co-Chair, Environmental Justice Ministry

Multifaith Alliance of Climate Stewards of Frederick County (MACS)
Bernadette Roche, Co-Chair

Oseh Shalom Congregation
Laurel, MD
Dr. Andrew Lincoln, Co-President

Interfaith Power & Light - DMV
Joelle Novey, Executive Director
Statewide Organization

All Saints Lutheran Church
Bowie, MD
Rev. Angela Shannon, Pastor
Emily Demarco, Just Grace Social Justice Team

Green Muslims
Sevim Kalyoncu, Executive Director
Statewide Organization

Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation
Bethesda, MD
Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb

Testimony DOCS JWB HB0596.pdf

Uploaded by: John Breen

Position: FAV

STATEMENT SUPPORTING THE MD ENVIRONMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS AMENDMENT HB 0596

Submitted February 23, 2022

I am an attorney residing in Annapolis MD, and ask for a favorable report on HB 0596. I support the opinions submitted by Dr. Thomas Moore.

THESE FACTS ARE NOT IN DISPUTE.

The City of Annapolis, its harbor, the Naval Academy are threatened by rising sea level. This flooding will damage the growth and economy of this capital city. The Salient facts are published by the City of Annapolis and NSA Annapolis in a document titled **CLIMATE RESILIENCE CONTEXT**

Exhibit 1 is the title page of this report

Exhibit 2 holds two graphs. DSLR SELECTED PROJECTIONS from 2030 to 2100 show slr (sea level rise) from est 2030 to 2100 with a low of 1 foot slr at 2030 to a high of 8 feet by 2100. The median level rise at 2050 appear to estimate slr at 1.9 or two feet. **The design level graph suggests a seawall of 5.2 feet is required to protect the naval academy and Annapolis Harbor.**

Exhibit 3 is a summary two findings in the 2022 Sea Level Rise Technical report published by the NOAA on their website. The Northeast coastline may average a slr of 14 to t 18 inches. **The NOAA SEA LEVEL REPORT also finds Failure to curb future emissions between 2020 and 2100 could Cause an additional rise of 1.5 to 5 feet of slr for a total of 3.5 to 7 feet by 2100.**

WE CAN AGREE that the duty of legislators is to protect the common good. WE can agree that the Opinion Works finds 76% on MD voters support the EHRA.

The issue before the members of this committee to have the courage to act and publicly vote and not be coopted by fear. One of these fears may be party discipline (unlikely in this crisis) or the fear of the cost of such remedies. The cost of remediation will likely obtain some 50% of the burden from the NSA. The cost of doing nothing can be catastrophic as we slowly watch businesses, homes and the Naval Academy continue to deteriorate and be abandoned or sold at substantial losses. Growth in the economy in the city would substantially fall.

It is clear public opinion supports passage of HB 0596 as an amendment to the MD Consitution. It is also clear your support will further your years in public service to the people.

CITY OF ANNAPOLIS /
NSA ANNAPOLIS

CLIMATE RESILIENT CONTEXT

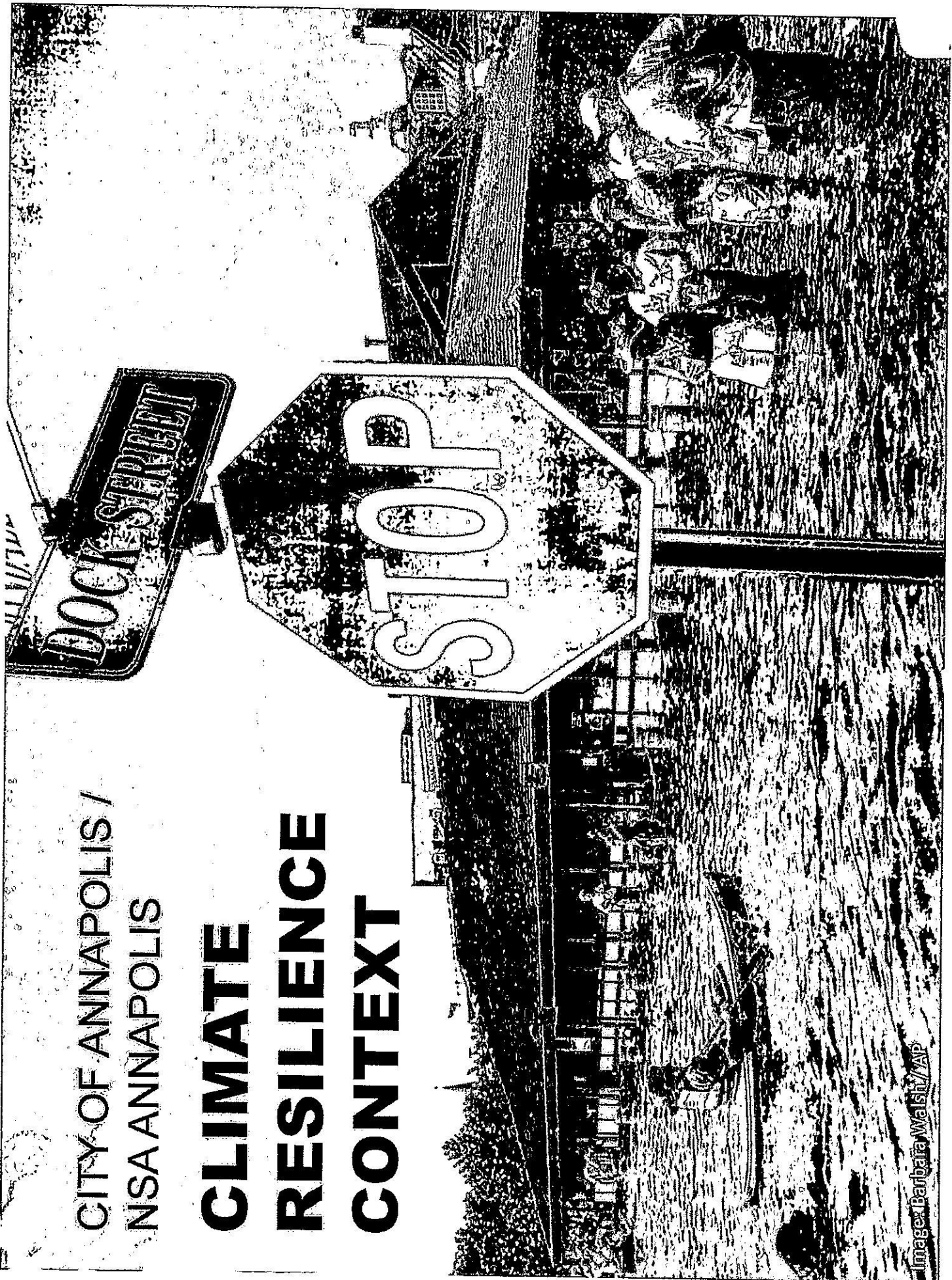


Exhibit 1. A Naval Academy Study of this century's projected sea level rise projects about 1.9 feet of Mean Seal Level (MSL) rise by 2050. The 2022 NOAA Sea Level Report moderated that to about 1.0 foot, only IF emissions are curbed. If not, it projects similar 5-7 feet rise by 2100.

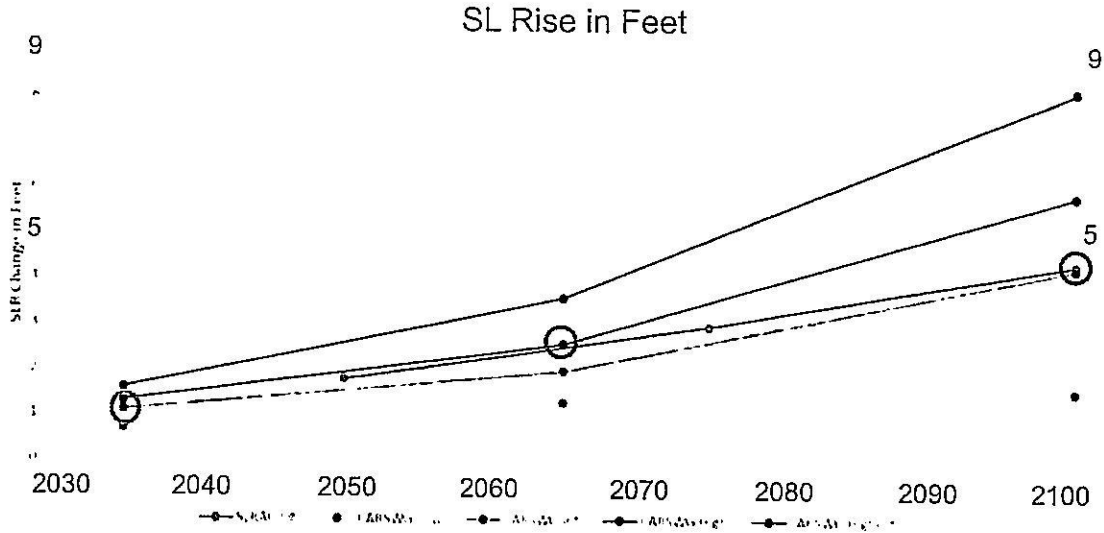
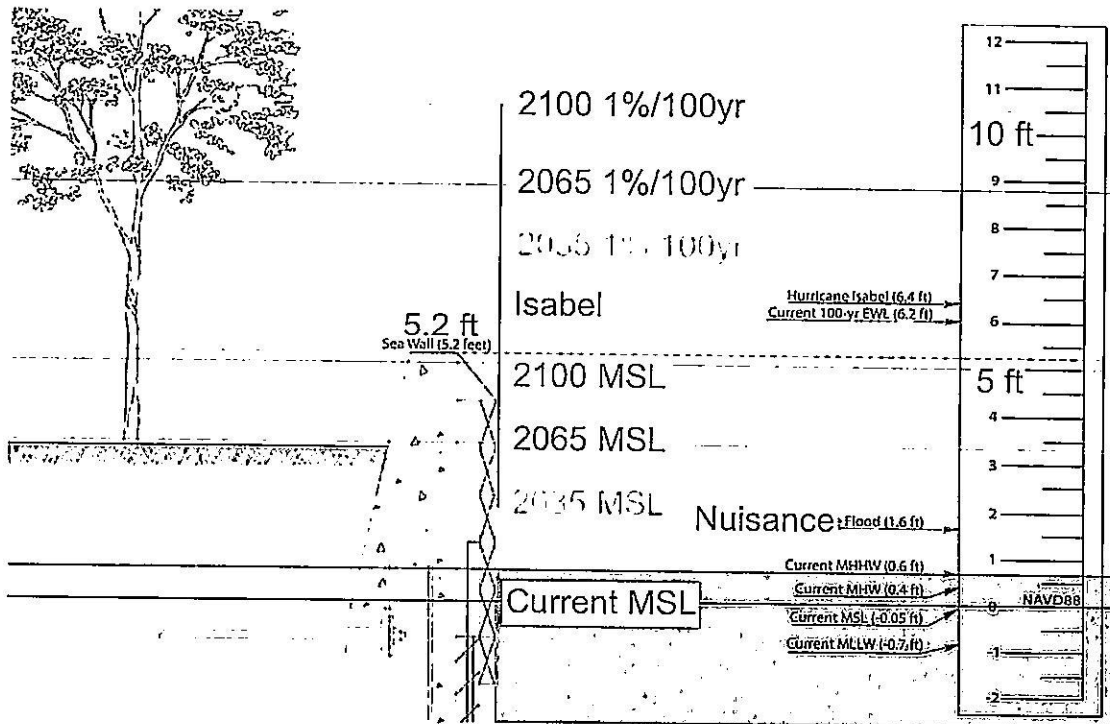


Exhibit 2. the recommended seawall is 5.2 feet above current MSL Future MSL and 100 year flood levels based on rising MSL are shown at three dates. Studies vary but the trend is clear.



2022 Sea Level Rise Technical Report

Ex 3

1

The Next 30 Years

Sea level along the U.S. coastline is projected to rise, on average, 10 - 12 inches (0.25 - 0.30 meters) in the next 30 years (2020 - 2050), which will be as much as the rise measured over the last 100 years (1920 - 2020). Sea level rise will vary regionally along U.S. coasts because of changes in both land and ocean height.

Rise in the next three decades is anticipated to be, on average: 10 - 14 inches (0.25 - 0.35 meters) for the East coast; 14 - 18 inches (0.35 - 0.45 meters) for the Gulf coast; 4 - 8 inches (0.1 - 0.2 meters) for the West coast; 8 - 10 inches (0.2 - 0.25 meters) for the Caribbean; 6 - 8 inches (0.15 - 0.2 meters) for the Hawaiian Islands; and 8 - 10 inches (0.2 - 0.25 meters) for northern Alaska.

3

Emissions Matter

Current and future emissions matter. About 2 feet (0.6 meters) of sea level rise along the U.S. coastline is increasingly likely between 2020 and 2100 because of emissions to date. Failing to curb future emissions could

cause an additional 1.5 - 5 feet (0.5 - 1.5 meters) of rise for a total of 3.5 - 7 feet (1.1 - 2.1 meters) by the end of this century.

Breaking it Down:

Testimony for IPL on HB 596 - Constitutional Amend

Uploaded by: Jonathan Lacock-Nisly

Position: FAV



Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)

900 Massachusetts Ave NW

Washington, DC 20001

202-525-9397 • jonathan@ipldmv.org

Jonathan Lacock-Nisly, Director of Faithful Advocacy

February 21, 2022

Testimony on HB 596 –

HB 596: Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

Environment and Transportation Committee

Position: Favorable

Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA) supports HB 596.

Across Maryland, damaged environments threaten our communities. When pollution makes our neighbors sick, we have failed in our shared responsibility to “keep and tend the Garden,” as the biblical book of Genesis mandates.

All of our traditions teach that protecting our Common Home means protecting the life of our human neighbors, the well-being of our communities, and the health of our natural places. A damaged environment threatens all life by interfering with the rights of all people to drink pure water, breathe clean air, and live healthfully now and in the future. We are speaking out to explicitly protect the rights of all Marylanders to live in a life-giving environment.

As communities of faith, we support a Maryland Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Human Rights because:

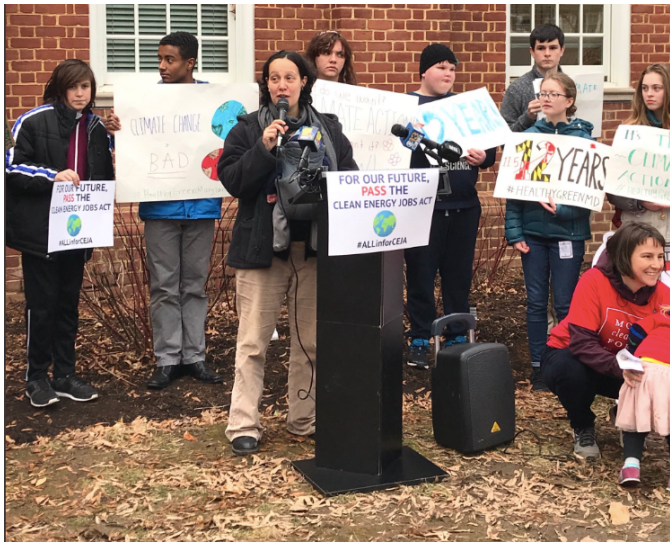
- **Clean air and water are blessings entrusted to us** – This amendment supports all other protections for health and the environment. By affirming a right to a healthy environment, we are expressing the calling of all our faiths to protect and steward our home places.
- **Ensuring healthy communities expresses our love for our neighbors** – This amendment would provide bedrock protections for individual rights and legally-recognizable standing so our neighbors can have access to courts when they are harmed by environmental injustice.
- **Ensuring a healthy environment expresses the calls of our faiths to promote a world in which future generations can live and flourish** – This amendment establishes the government of Maryland as a trustee of the state’s natural resources for the long term, asserting that the right to a healthy environment is on par with other fundamental rights protected in our constitution.

Maryland needs to take proactive steps to protect our communities and enable all of our neighbors to be able to defend their right to a healthy environment.

We urge the committee to give HB 596 a favorable report.



Attendees at a December 2019 event in Baltimore convened by the Baltimore Jewish Council, the Pearlstone Center, and The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore learn about the Maryland Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Human Rights. Congregations across Maryland are drawn to the Amendment as both an expression of our principles and a concrete way to care for our neighbors and Creation.



IPL-DMV Director Joelle Novey speaks with her infant son in support of the Amendment at a 2019 rally. “We have no right to deprive this baby of the healthy, life-giving world that was created anew for them.”



Rev. Dell Hinton of Gwynn Oak UMC speaks in support of the Amendment at a 2019 event. “This Amendment is not just economic and environmental. It is spiritual. It speaks to the heart and the soul.”

HB0596 - EHRA - Testimony - Climate Parents of Pri

Uploaded by: Joseph Jakuta

Position: FAV

Committee: Environment and Transportation
Testimony on: HB 596 - "Environmental Human Rights Amendment"
Organization: Climate Parents of Prince George's
Person Submitting: Joseph Jakuta, Lead Volunteer
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 23, 2022



Dear Mr. Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for considering our testimony today in support of HB 596 on the Environmental Human Rights Amendment (EHRA). Climate Parents is a campaign to reduce climate change causing pollution in schools and our group is active in Prince George's County.

HB596, if passed and approved by voters in November, would enshrine in Maryland's Constitution:

"(A) That each person has a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment, and said right shall not be infringed.

(B) That the State, as trustee, shall protect, conserve, and enhance Maryland's natural resources, including its air, lands, waters, wildlife, and ecosystems, for the benefit of both present and future generations."

The EHRA would give regular people the ability to hold state and local governments accountable for ensuring a healthy environment, which is particularly important for the young people of today as they face a world beset by the impacts we are already seeing from the climate emergency and the continuance of environmental injustice.

Although the General Assembly has passed and can pass strong environmental legislation it is not guaranteed and sometimes takes years. Sometimes there is success. For example, in 2021 the General Assembly enacted a climate test for the Public Service Commission (PSC). But the PSC not being required constitutionally to consider the right to a "sustainable environment" meant this problem had to fester for years and a similar problem still needs to be fixed for the numerous other agencies. Given that every year we delay tackling the climate emergency makes our children's world less sustainable this amendment would provide them with more of a guarantee that Maryland would act without being required by the General Assembly when a specific, acute problem becomes overwhelming.

Pennsylvania and Montana have had similar language in their constitutions since the 1970's and voters in New York approved environmental rights language last November. Experience has shown that there is not a flood of litigation in states with environmental rights in their Constitutions. Furthermore, civil servants do tend to take their duty to uphold the Maryland Constitution seriously so one would expect that state and local governments will make the EHRA part of their decision making and most litigation would be unnecessary.

In the end the General Assembly should let the voters decide. Passing HB596 is not the final step since this amendment like others needs to be approved by the voters. A recent poll found that 76% of Marylanders surveyed would support the EHRA and 69% said they would vote in favor of it if the election were held today. Parents like us need to give our children the tools to make a better world and the EHRA is an important legacy we want to leave for them.

We encourage a **FAVORABLE** report for this important legislation.

HB596_MDSierraClub_fav - 23Feb2022.pdf

Uploaded by: Josh Tulkin

Position: FAV



Maryland Chapter
P.O. Box 278
Riverdale, MD 20738

Committee: Environment and Transportation
Testimony on: HB 596 – “Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights”
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 23, 2022

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club strongly supports HB 596, which would add the right to a healthful and sustainable environment to the State’s Constitution provided that the amendment is approved by voters in November. The amendment would also fortify Maryland’s public trust doctrine by recognizing for the first time in our Constitution that the State is trustee of Maryland’s natural resources and is charged to conserve those resources for present and future generations.

Amending the Constitution is a serious matter, and we appreciate the attention that Chairman Barve and this Committee have given to this issue. We also appreciate the attention the amendment will receive in the Senate.

In this testimony we would like to answer the following questions:

- Why does the State Constitution need an environmental rights amendment?
- Will the amendment open the floodgates of litigation, intrude on the legislative prerogative, or stifle growth?
- What has been the experience in the states that have enacted similar language?

We would be happy to answer any follow-up questions from the Committee.

Why does the State Constitution need an environmental rights amendment?

The proposed amendment is based on, and elevates to the level of constitutional authority, rights and responsibilities already recognized in Maryland statutory and common law, and similar provisions in other state constitutions. The amendment states that:

- (A) Every person has the fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment.
- (B) The right enumerated under subsection (A) of this section may not be infringed.
- (C) The State shall:
 1. Serve as the trustee of the State’s natural resources, including the air, land, water, wildlife, and ecosystems of the state; and
 2. Conserve, protect, and enhance the State’s natural resources for the benefit of every person, including present and future generations.

We believe the rights enunciated in Subsections (A) and (B) of the amendment and the trustee responsibilities set forth in Subsection (C), are the type of important, widely agreed upon, protections and authorities that should be raised to the constitutional level. As Americans and Marylanders, our core constitutional rights – freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, the right to a fair trial, equal protection by the laws – are fundamental to who we are. We expect that every Committee Member joins us in these beliefs. They are bedrock principles to our Nation and State, and they shape the way we as Americans and Marylanders interact with each other and govern.

Over the more than two hundred years since our Nation’s Constitution was written, our core Bill of

Rights freedoms have been sustained. In fact, they have been expanded to cover men and women who were enslaved at the time the Constitution was ratified or, in the case of women, who gained the right to vote. The same applies to our State Declaration of Rights and, again, we expect that every Member of this Committee fully supports these protections and could not imagine our State or Nation without these core guardrails. We all recognize that our State and Nation have not always lived up to our ideals, but we are deeply grateful for the men and women who worked, fought, and died for them. We recognize that they have not been free.

We likewise believe that all Members of this Committee want to leave this generation and future generations a State that is healthful and sustainable. In the more than two centuries since they were established, our Constitutional rights have persisted. Unfortunately, while we have made great advances in life expectancy and other measures of the quality of life, we are on track to leave our children, our grandchildren, and future generations an environment that is seriously degraded. Most of our citizens live in communities with harmful air quality and many of our water bodies are seriously polluted. Even with the Maryland Environmental Policy Act and the dozens of other supporting significant pieces of legislation, we have not done nearly as good a job protecting the environment as we have protected our State Declaration of Rights and Federal Bill of Rights freedoms. We recognize, of course, that some of the biggest environmental threats – including climate change on a global scale – are difficult for Maryland to address without broader national and international support. Yet here Maryland has been a leader, recognizing that its steps make a meaningful contribution and set a valuable example for our sister States and the Nation. We thank this Committee, in particular, for its leadership in those steps.

This amendment does two very important things that this Committee should also fully support. Subsections (A) and (B) establish a right that was first recognized in 1971 as a matter of Maryland statutory law: that every person has a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment. It is a right that must not be infringed if we hope to ensure a livable environment in our state.

Subsection (C) recognizes that Maryland's natural resources are a public trust, and that it is the State's job as trustee, the State's fiduciary responsibility, to conserve, protect and enhance those natural resources for the benefit of not just present but also future generations. We expect that a constitutional requirement that the State act as trustee to conserve, protect and enhance a healthful and sustainable environment will bolster the State's authority and responsibility to implement our existing laws and regulations. It will also encourage future legislatures and administrations to consider the objectives of a healthful and sustainable environment when developing statutes and regulations. We also recognize that political winds can change. In recent years, for example, the U.S. Government left a global accord on climate change, approved harvesting of rare old-growth forests, and relaxed other long-established statutory and regulatory environmental protections. The Amendment will put Maryland's environmental health on par with other essential rights. It will help protect Maryland from Federal relaxations and it will help prevent future State administrations from taking such difficult and often impossible to reverse actions in Maryland.

Will the amendment open the floodgates of litigation, intrude on the legislative prerogative, or stifle growth?

This is an important question, and it deserves a serious, evidence-based answer. The answer, based on 50 years of experience in the other states with similar protections, is no. There is no evidence of irresponsible and frequent lawsuits across the other states with similar amendments. First, the amendment will be added to the Maryland Declaration of Rights which is focused on individual rights and the State's responsibilities, and not on disputes and remedies between private parties. Second, courts generally base their decisions upon statutory authorities before deciding cases based on constitutional

provisions. Across all the states with similar provisions, there have been few cases brought and decided based on the states' constitutional environmental provisions. Third, cases where state laws were found unconstitutional under the amendment were compelling. In one case, a Montana law prohibiting the State government from considering arsenic pollution of a river near Yellowstone National Park was found to be unconstitutional under that State's constitutional environmental provision. In Pennsylvania, a court found that localities should not be barred from considering the risks that fracking activities in their jurisdiction would have upon local water supplies. Neither of these cases involves trivial litigation or judicial overreach; and both resulted in meaningful protection of public health.

Importantly, the legislative and executive branches of our State will retain their separate essential constitutional roles in bringing meaning to these provisions. Just as courts and legislatures have addressed abuses of other constitutional privileges (incitement to riot, libel, etc.), we believe Maryland's courts and the General Assembly will give meaning to the amendment. Above all, we do not expect Maryland's courts would take on the role of expert agencies or overturn carefully considered legislation.

What has been the experience in the states that have enacted similar language?

Thirty-six state constitutions, not including Maryland, have some sort of environmental protection provision. Of those, six state constitutions have been amended since the 1970s to confer a personal right to a healthy environment.¹ As indicated above, the experience in those other states has been that their amendments have been used occasionally. In the five decades that those states have had their provisions in effect, few cases were decided based upon them, and then only when the states' actions were egregious. We recognize that some of the above states have environmental challenges that are at least as serious as Maryland's. We do not argue that their environmental amendments have been a panacea. But we do believe that, over time, they have proven to be a useful and an increasingly important and beneficial component of those states' environmental legal frameworks, and it would similarly be useful in Maryland.

One other element of the other states' experiences is the broad support for this amendment. For example, in November 2021, nearly 69 percent of New York voters approved that state's similar amendment, which had previously received approval from the state's legislature in a process broadly similar to Maryland's. It is worth noting that while New York voters approved this amendment, they did not approve three of the other four amendment proposals on their ballot.

In conclusion, we believe that the merits of the proposed amendment are very well supported by legal analysis and practical experience. It would provide important, long-term protections that warrant elevation to inclusion in our State's Constitution. Like other Constitutional provisions, it is intended to establish guardrails that have lasting value and reflect broadly shared principles. There is no evidence from decades of experience that the amendment will produce counterproductive or inappropriate impacts.

Our views on the merits of the amendment are widely shared. With our partners we have gained the endorsement of over 100 organizations in Maryland for the amendment. What is particularly impressive is the breadth of social justice, environmental, and faith-based organizations represented; they look like Maryland. They include the NAACP Maryland State Conference, Maryland League of Women Voters, Maryland League of Conservation Voters, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Izaak Walton League of America Sportsman's Chapter, Audubon Mid-Atlantic, Maryland Public Health Association, University of Maryland School of Nursing, Maryland Catholic Conference, Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, Maryland

¹ Illinois Const. art. XI, § 2 (effective July 1, 1971), Pennsylvania Const. art. I, § 27 (effective May 18, 1971), Montana Const. art II, § 3 (effective July 1, 1973), Hawaii Const. art. XI, § 9 (effective Jan. 1, 1979), Massachusetts Const. article of amendment XLIX (effective Nov. 7, 1972), and New York (effective Jan. 1, 2022). The Rhode Island Bill of Rights (1987) includes related protections.

Presbyterian Church, Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church, Baltimore and Howard County Boards of Rabbis, and Islamic Society of the Washington Area. The breadth, depth, and thoughtful, public-spirited nature of the support for this amendment is special and meaningful.

We urge the Committee to join us and this impressively representative group of entities and support passage of HB 596 so that the voters of Maryland will have the opportunity to add this amendment to the Maryland Constitution.

Randy Lyon
Legislative Chair
Randy.Lyon@MDSierra.org

Rosa Hance
Chapter Chair
Rosa.Hance@MDSierra.org

Josh Tulkin
Chapter Director
Josh.Tulkin@MDSierra.org

HB 596 & SB 783 Testimony Episcopal Diocese of MD.p

Uploaded by: katharine shahinian

Position: FAV



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

SUPPORT
HB 596/SB783
Constitutional Amendment-Environmental Rights
Environment and Transportation Committee

Good afternoon, Chair Barve, Vice-Chair Stein, members of the Environment and Transportation Committee, my name is Linda Boyd and today, I testify on behalf of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland that represents 108 parishes and over 45,000 parishioners stretching from Western Maryland to Calvert County. We support HB 596.

This Amendment would guarantee that every person in Maryland, every child of God, as a matter of basic human dignity, has a fundamental right to a healthy environment. This also requires that the State protect those rights and to put the health of its citizens first. This would assure that every Marylander who suffers from environmental degradation could challenge actions that create an unhealthy environment.

Communities of color and low-income neighborhoods bear the burden of environmental pollution and degradation and the resulting health disparities. In November 2021, the Maryland Episcopal Diocese overwhelmingly passed Resolution 2021-03 that supported the adoption of such an amendment. Caring for the health of our neighbors is a form of loving our neighbors as ourselves. It is a moral issue. Our State is not protecting the health of all of its citizens but, rather, putting the interests of industry over the health of its citizens, especially low income and minority citizens. This amendment would legally protect their rights and all Marylanders' rights to live in a healthy environment. We respectfully request a favorable report.

CPR Environmental Human Rights Amendment Testimony

Uploaded by: Katlyn Schmitt

Position: FAV

Testimony in Support of House Bill 596 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights (‘Maryland Environmental Human Rights Amendment’)

February 23, 2021

Dear Chairman Barve and Members the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support House Bill 596, which establishes a constitutional right to a healthy and healthful environment, on behalf of the Center for Progressive Reform.

House Bill 596 would simply give Marylanders the ability to amend our Declaration of Rights, as we’ve done before, to establish environmental health as a fundamental and foundational value of Marylanders now and for future generations. If successful on the ballot, this amendment would give the General Assembly and the courts in our state the clear authority to take strong action to protect the environment for the health of all Marylanders. The omission of environmental health protections in our constitution—at the core of the air we breathe and the water we drink—is a fundamental flaw that Marylanders should have the ability to address.

A constitutional amendment would ensure that the state and local government has a legal obligation to treat all individuals and communities equitably when it comes to protecting their rights to a clean and healthy environment. This amendment would establish the fundamental human right that no person should suffer disproportionate environmental, health and quality of life burdens because of their skin color, their income, or where they live.

Every day, local, state, and federal governments are granting permission to industries to pollute, deforest, denigrate, and despoil our environment, which is having serious effects on the health of our state and our bodies. A constitutional amendment would ensure that all state officials in all government branches would have an affirmative duty to protect the environment (i.e. adequate enforcement, permitting and compliance) and a prohibitory duty to refrain from direct government action that would permit or otherwise encourage the degradation, diminution, or depletion of public natural resources (i.e. permitting a industrial polluter in an overburdened community).

House Bill 596 acknowledges that existing laws and regulatory frameworks in Maryland do not adequately protect Marylanders. A constitutional amendment would serve as a stopgap to this imperfect system, especially in addressing new, emerging, and more generalized threats that are not exactly captured by existing law or implementation of that law.

- ◇ Wherever there are disproportionate environmental burdens to underserved and overburdened communities, this constitutional amendment would provide a way for communities to push back against further degradation as well as focus efforts on needed restoration. (i.e. Brandywine, Curtis Bay, Eagle Harbor, Lothian, etc.)
 - This amendment would likely cover practices such as zoning focused on repeatedly locating polluting operations in the same communities and institutional racism that has resulted in minority and/or low-income communities being situated in highly-polluted areas -- with decaying infrastructure and toxic sites, such as landfills, superfund sites, industrial operations and major roadways. No one should have to suffer health problems due to their income, their skin color, or their zip code.
- ◇ Enforcement within the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is lagging and the agency is under-resourced. MDE's Water & Science Administration (WSA) only took 627 enforcement actions in FY 2021. This is the lowest amount of annual enforcement actions taken since FY 2002 and roughly a 30 percent decrease from the average number of enforcement actions taken annually over the last 20 years. The record low annual number of inspections conducted by WSA occurred in FY 2020, with 2,929 inspections. This number only grew to 3,078 inspections in FY 2021, which is still a 60 percent decrease from the average number of inspections conducted by the WSA annually.
- ◇ Noncompliance with Maryland's environmental laws is rampant.
 - MDE inspected a 4.38-acre waste management and recycling facility in Pasadena eight times, owned by Ecology Services, beginning in January 2020, and found violations during every single visit before it finally filed a lawsuit in the late spring of 2020. This facility has been operating without its required coverage under the state's industrial stormwater permit, despite discharging sediment and other unknown pollutants into the Magothy River for years. This runoff prevented yellow perch from spawning in nearby parts of the Magothy this year. The Magothy River is currently impaired by sediment, bacteria, ions, metals, nutrients, and PCBs. While this is independently a great win on the enforcement front, the state tolerated an endless number of stormwater violations prior to bringing this lawsuit.
 - There's been rampant noncompliance under the states industrial stormwater permit that has largely gone unaddressed by MDE. For instance, **only 24 percent (475 of 1,979) of MDE's inspections between 2017 and 2020 found that industrial stormwater permittees were in compliance with their permit**

terms. The Department found direct noncompliance in almost two-thirds (1,305) of its inspections between 2017 and 2020. Despite finding some form of noncompliance in 76 percent (1,504 of 1,979) of its inspections, the Department only took formal enforcement actions against 0.3 percent (6 of 1,979) of the sites found in noncompliance during the same time period. Lastly, inspection data show that numerous facilities were in noncompliance repeatedly, and many times consecutively. Of the 1,305 inspections that resulted in direct findings of noncompliance, 617 of the inspected facilities were repeat offenders. The widespread noncompliance and lack of adequate enforcement measures over the last few years looks glaringly similar to what the Center for Progressive Reform and the Environmental Integrity Project found in their [report](#) on industrial stormwater regulation in Maryland between 2014 and 2017.

- The Environmental Integrity Project recently released [a report](#) on widespread noncompliance among CAFOs on Maryland's Eastern Shore. The industry produces more than 600 million pounds of manure every year from roughly 300 million chickens. The report found that 51 percent of the CAFOs (with public records available in 2019) overapplied manure (above nutrient management plan limits), yet none were fined by the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Despite the fact that the Maryland Department of the Environment inspects fewer CAFOs every year (inspections have fallen by 40 percent since 2013), 84 percent of the CAFOs inspected between 2017 and 2019 by MDE failed to meet the required water pollution controls; 46 percent failed the second inspection. Only 4 percent were fined by MDE, and half of those fines were collected. The report notes that "despite the industry's large footprint on the Eastern Shore, state oversight is minimal and ineffective at protecting water quality." You can read more [here](#).
- ◇ Permitted facilities in Maryland have lapsed permits with outdated permit terms and it's taken too long for the Department to bring these facilities into compliance with important environmental protections. For example, Valley Proteins has been operating a chicken rendering plant with a discharge permit that has been administratively extended since 2006. Over two decades ago, the facility was identified as the single [largest contributor of nitrogen](#) to the Transquaking River. Since then, the facility's discharge monitoring reports and water quality tests have demonstrated alarming levels of pollution. Valley Proteins owns many animal waste processing facilities along the East Coast and in some parts of the Midwest, where it turns animal processing byproducts into pet food. Ironically, Valley Proteins' slogan is "Making a sustainable difference for a healthier environment." Despite the alarming amount of violations from this rendering plant on Maryland's lower eastern shore, MDE has only taken one enforcement action, a [\\$5,000 fine](#) in April 2019, against the facility until more recently filing a lawsuit against the facility.
- ◇ Pollution violations at the Back River and Patapsco wastewater treatment plants are well-documented, but MDE has failed to pursue any meaningful enforcement actions

to hold these facilities accountable. Coupled together, these plants continue to discharge millions of gallons of wastewater pollution into local waterways.

These are just a few of the many examples where this amendment could provide additional pathways for communities to ensure they are protected. A constitutional right, as opposed to a regular law, would ensure that environmental protection is the highest obligation of the government, and not just an aspirational goal that could be amended at any point in time. As a constitutional guardian of our natural resources, Maryland state officials would be: (a) constitutionally obligated to protect the environment and its impact on the health of Marylanders, and (b) legally prevented from permitting egregious harm to public natural resources that would violate the constitutional right. Under the provision, the government is not the proprietor of the environment, but is the trustee of public natural resources and must conserve/maintain those resources for the benefit of both present and future generations. Under such a trust obligation, government must comply with fiduciary duties, which include the duties of prudence, loyalty, and impartiality. This duty simply cannot be brushed aside in decision-making. For instance, in 2016 Pennsylvania's environmental rights amendment was utilized by the state Supreme Court (*Robinson Township v. Commonwealth*) to strike down provisions in a 2012 state law (Act 13) that allowed industry to drill and frack shale gas in every municipality across the state, regardless of the local zoning laws and prohibitions on construction near schools, residents, wildlife sanctuaries, and public parks. It also gave industry the unilateral power to seize land through eminent domain for underground gas storage. The Court found that the state was not acting as the true trustee of the environment.

Constitutional rights cannot be waived or displaced by acts of the legislature; when there is a defensible claim of infringement on a constitutional right there is a constitutional right to seek redress in the courts by those who are impacted. What that means is that when a government action is going to pollute the water or air, or harm the environment in ways that could be deemed unconstitutional, impacted people can go to court to challenge that government action, even if there is no specific law or regulation that otherwise allows a challenge to the permit issued or decision made. More specifically, the individual environmental rights protections provided by the amendment in Maryland is written in a way that will direct the courts to conduct a strict scrutiny review, which means that: (1) any intrusion on an individual's right to a healthy environment must serve a compelling government interest; (2) the proposed action uses the least restrictive means (i.e. inflicts the least detrimental impact on the environment); and (3) the compelling government interest is deemed consistent with the purposes of our constitutional amendment (i.e. non-degradation and equity in terms of impact on communities).

Passing this amendment is not a panacea for fixing all of today's environmental challenges, but it would represent an enforceable promise to future generations that their health and the health of our planet is a priority worth articulating in our state's most sacred political document.

We urge a favorable report on HB596.

Sincerely,

Katlyn Schmitt
Policy Analyst
Center for Progressive Reform

2022 HB 0596 - FAVORABLE.pdf

Uploaded by: Ken Phelps

Position: FAV



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 0596: Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

****FAVORABLE****

February 23, 2022

TO: The Hon. Kumar Barve, Chair; the Hon. Dana Stein; Vice-Chair; and the members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: The Rev. Kenneth O. Phelps, Jr; Vice-Chair of the Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network

In November of 2021, the 237th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, voted overwhelmingly to support the passage and adoption of this constitutional amendment.

Contemporary society provides us with a host of environmental challenges, too many for our state legislature to be able to reasonably handle in its short 90-day sessions. This amendment provides a safety net that encompasses a broad array of issues, preventing environmental degradation, both now and in the future.

The environmental laws and policies our lawmakers have passed are not currently secure. Future administrations and legislatures can reverse or repeal those laws, or differentially enforce them. Even for laws already on the books, insufficient enforcement leads to noncompliance due to a lack of oversight. We need these laws.

A constitutional amendment will offer the strongest, broadest, and most durable legal tool for environmental protection of all citizens of Maryland and especially those communities disproportionately burdened by environmental degradation.

By placing the amendment in the State constitution's Declaration of Rights, it carries the same legal and moral weight as other fundamental civil rights.

By assuring that every person has a right to a healthful environment, this amendment enables those who suffer from environmental degradation, or who are threatened with harm by proposed actions to the environment around them, to challenge those actions as people whose rights have been violated. Without this amendment, individuals who suffer harm appear as supplicants before the law requesting that somehow the public interest be interpreted to protect the environmental values from which they should benefit. This amendment enables them to stand before the law as claimants to their right to a healthful environment, a right that stands on par with all other civil rights.

We urge a favorable report.

HB596-FAVORABLE-PELTIER.pdf

Uploaded by: Laurel Peltier

Position: FAV

Written testimony FAVORABLE HB596

Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Human Rights to Sustainable and Healthy Environment

Hearing: February 23, 2022, Environment & Transportation

FAVORABLE

Laurel Peltier, Baltimore County citizen,

I am strongly in support of this powerful and strategic bill that would allow this Constitutional amendment to be added on to future ballot referendums.

Since the Industrial Revolution began with the discovery of coal in Wales, I would submit that governments and many elected officials have not put our environmental ecosystem's sustainability and its importance as the life sustaining system, at the forefront, or often in any way, of critical decisions made with our shared natural resources.

It seems odd in a way to have to legislate a bill that must be passed to be included on a ballot agreeing that our environment is a human right. It's not only a right, but also a necessity for survival. Clean air, clean water, clean natural habitats, all are vital for our species to survive. And we've done a suboptimal job of taking care of the Garden of Eden, a closed ecosystem. We're getting closer to a tipping point where our climate will become so polluted that scientists suggest we'll be in a new geological epoch. All because of decisions made where we did not consider our inalienable human environmental rights.

Governments, agencies, and elected officials in concert with for-profit businesses have made grave decisions about our environmental resources and have caused grave harm to our

planet's health -- our collective climate, our water sources and health, our soils, and the cities and communities we live in.

This bill would allow everyday citizens and groups to have a small weight in their favor against the usual well-capitalized corporations and entities that have to date, in my view, looked at our natural shared resources as a free resource to dominate with no care for the negative external costs that get paid by others. Over-development, continued reliance on fossil fuels, businesses that freely pollute air and water and surrounding communities, it's gotten us to this point.

This bill would also make it official that Maryland values the beautiful ecosystem we've been given, that we've taken horrendous care of, and that we honor and cherish and value its importance in all future decision our state governments make.

SB596-MDEnvironHumanRights-E&T-CJW-fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Laurie McGilvray

Position: FAV



Committee: Environment and Transportation

Testimony on: HB596 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

Organization: Climate Justice Wing of the Maryland Legislative Coalition

Submitting: Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 23, 2022

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony in support of HB596 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights. The Maryland Legislative Coalition (MLC) Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of over 50 grassroots and professional organizations. We urge you in the strongest terms possible to vote favorably on HB596.

HB596, if passed and approved by voters in November, would enshrine in Maryland’s Constitution:

“(A) That each person has a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment, and said right shall not be infringed.

(B) That the State, as trustee, shall protect, conserve, and enhance Maryland’s natural resources, including its air, lands, waters, wildlife, and ecosystems, for the benefit of both present and future generations.”

It would add this right to the preamble, along with other rights like freedom of speech. The Amendment would give regular people the ability to hold state and local governments accountable for ensuring a healthy environment, which is particularly important for communities long burdened with environmental injustices.

Why the Amendment is Needed

First, although the Maryland General Assembly has and can pass strong environmental legislation it is not guaranteed. Sometimes it takes years or a bill is vetoed by the Governor, or a veto override fails. Second, even though Maryland has strong environmental laws, they may not be adequately implemented or enforced. A case in point is “zombie permits.” HB649 - Environment - Discharge Permits - Inspections and Administrative Continuations is designed to remedy a lack of enforcement by the Maryland Department of Environment, who is not doing their job to address noncompliance by permit holders. Maryland’s water quality suffers as do people whose livelihoods depend on clean waters. The legislature should not have to pass a law every time a State environmental agency fails to enforce environmental laws. Having a Constitutional right to a healthy environment would give Marylander’s most impacted another tool for redress - a safety net when other avenues fail or take too long.

Maryland is Not Breaking New Ground

Pennsylvania and Montana have had similar language in their constitutions since the 1970's and voters in New York approved environmental rights language last November. Experience has shown that number of environmental lawsuits don't explode in states with environmental rights in their Constitutions. Bringing a lawsuit and winning is hard and expensive, as clearly described in *Amity and Prosperity*, a true story about families in Southeastern Pennsylvania being poisoned by fracking. The cases aimed to protect citizens from environmental harm when state environmental agencies have failed to do so. Marylanders deserve similar rights and protections that other states provide in their constitutions.

Let the Voters Decide

Passing HB596 is not the final step; Constitutional amendments must be approved by the voters. A recent poll found that 76% of Marylanders surveyed would support the Constitutional Amendment on Environmental Human Rights and 69% said they would vote in favor of it if the election were held today. We urge a **FAVORABLE** vote on HB596 so Maryland voters can decide if they want to add environmental human rights to their Constitution.

SB596-MDEnvironHumanRights-E&T-TPMEC-fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Laurie McGilvray

Position: FAV



Environment Committee

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Testimony on: HB596 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

Organization: Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee

Submitting: Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 23, 2022

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

We are pleased to submit testimony in favor of HB596 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights. The Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee is a grassroots organization focused on State and County level climate action. We strongly urge you to vote favorably on HB596.

HB596, if passed and approved by voters in November, would add an important right to the preamble in Maryland's Constitution:

“(A) That each person has a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment, and said right shall not be infringed.

(B) That the State, as trustee, shall protect, conserve, and enhance Maryland's natural resources, including its air, lands, waters, wildlife, and ecosystems, for the benefit of both present and future generations.”

Maryland Should Have an Environmental Safety Net Like Other States

Seven states have environmental rights language in their constitutions - Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Montana, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and voters in New York approved language last November. Pennsylvania and Montana have had constitutional environmental rights since the 1970's, and experience has shown that there is not a flood of litigation. Bringing a lawsuit is hard and expensive. Cases have largely involved instances in which state laws and their implementation by environmental agencies failed to protect citizens' constitutional rights to a healthy environment.

In the 1999 case of Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC) v. Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), the State had allowed a mining company to pump, without any treatment, millions of gallons of arsenic-tainted water into the Landers Fork and Blackfoot Rivers. Tests showed arsenic concentrations of 36 to 55 parts per billion, far above the State standard of 18 ppb. The water also contained iron, zinc, and manganese in excess of State standards. The legislature had passed a law, which included two blanket exemptions from the State's non-degradation policy, which MDEQ used to grant the permits. The Montana Supreme Court ruled that

these blanket exemptions were unconstitutional unless the State could show a compelling State interest in granting exemptions.

Clearly, if state and local governments are doing their jobs to protect the environment, then litigation would be unnecessary. However, Maryland communities like Brandywine, Eagle Harbor, and Lothian continue to experience environmental degradation, despite strong environmental laws in Maryland. State agencies and local governments can grant permits that don't actually protect the environment and they can fail to enforce existing permits. HB649 - Environment - Discharge Permits - Inspections and Administrative Continuations, highlights the issue of "zombie permits" and the Maryland Department of Environment's lack of enforcement of noncompliant permit holders. A constitutional right to a healthy environment would provide Marylanders with a powerful safety net.

Let the Voters Decide

A recent poll found that 76% of Marylanders surveyed would support the Constitutional Amendment on Environmental Human Rights and 69% said they would vote in favor of it if the election were held today. Voters should have a chance to make the decision for themselves.

We therefore, strongly urge a **FAVORABLE** vote on HB596 to let the voters can decide.

hb596, constitutional environmental right, 2022.pd

Uploaded by: Lee Hudson

Position: FAV



Delaware-Maryland Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Testimony Prepared for the
Environment and Transportation Committee
on
House Bill 596
February 23, 2022
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify for a human right that inheres with the gifts of creation. I am Lee Hudson, assistant to the bishop for public policy in the Delaware-Maryland Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are a faith community with three synods in every part of our State.

Our community addressed concern for a safe, healthy environment that can sustain life in "Caring for Creation" [ELCA, 1993 assembly]. Among perspectives articulated in that statement are: While stewardship of natural resources and processes is a matter for the human ethos, it is a spiritual matter; because all living things are within the vital web called nature. Nature is simply not ours. It is a universal given, not traded goods.

Human activity has consequences. Consequence can end at illness and injury, life or death. We must discern in order to be wise; we must respect in order to flourish. Because communities of faith worship a Maker, they approach providence with reverence and awe. Through created gifts—provided, not earned or owned—the holiness of life, time and human experience are glimpsed. We are not merely all in this together; we are all of this together.

The policy proposal represented by **House Bill 596** has become influential in environmental advocacy: namely, an enumerated human right to a safe environment in constitutional law. We support it. Legal standing in defense of a right to the blessings of this life is good public and moral policy. It can assist protecting the natural context from exploitation and injury. And it may provide a platform to address an obvious social inequity.

Members of this Committee and General Assembly will know why. Environmental threats to health and safety are public concerns. Toxins, hazards, pollution of air, water, and soil are regular topics in most General Assembly sessions. A concern we have articulated in prior sessions is the disparity of health effects visited on some. We all breathe the same air, but it is not the same quality of air for everyone. Water may be supplied by a public authority, but not everybody's is safe. Pollutants and toxins are emitted, stored, dumped somewhere, but not in everyone's context. Current regulatory regimes that distribute hazards are often unfair. Once damage is done it's likely to get worse on the grounds the damage is already done.

An environmental bill of rights would be an instrument to address this injustice of current public policy. Denying that there is such a right implies a contrary: that there exists a prevailing right to despoil, sicken, and afflict. We trust that is not the sense of this General Assembly.

We note you will hear from a chorus of religious voices on this bill. What is important is that the voices are not only from an ecumenical, but also from an interfaith perspective; and not just within current religious organizations, but from spiritual insight gleaned across millennia. Our voice is in the chorus.

Advance a human right to a livable environment. Let the people of Maryland decide what environment they want to live in. Give **House Bill 596** a favorable report.

Lee Hudson

5699 Meridale Rd. Baltimore, MD 21228 410-230-2860 800-869-5492 fax 410-230-2871

Testimony - HB0596 - Environmental Human Rights Am

Uploaded by: Lee McNair

Position: FAV

February 21, 2022

HB0596 - the Maryland Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Rights

Position: FAVORABLE

Submitter: Lee McNair, Co-Leader, Unitarian Universalist, Cedar Lane Environmental Justice Ministry (CLEJM), a member organization of the Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing and Climate Partners.

CLEJM supports HB596 and asks for a FAVORABLE vote in committee.

In 1973 Maryland passed the Environmental Policy Act which proclaimed: *each persons the fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful environment.* Since that time Maryland has passed laws, written regulations, promoted policies intended to preserve and protect a healthy environment.

- **Since that time our environment has steadily become more unhealthy, more degraded and especially so in our low-income communities and neighborhoods inhabited by mostly people of color.**
- **Since that time, Maryland cities have experienced flooding and urban heat island effects, plus coastal flooding, loss of farmland, degradation of fishing areas, and more.**

- **Since 1973, climate devastation and global warming have adversely impacted, not only Maryland, but the entire planet.**

It should be clear to all of us that we need a much stronger foundation upon which to stand in order to protect our citizens and our total environment.

That is exactly what the Environmental Human Rights Amendment will give us. Better still, this gives the citizens of Maryland a voice in their own future through the right of choice since any constitutional amendment must be voted on by the people.

Marylanders are concerned about our environmental predicament with great reason. HB596 will be assurance to our residents that the State of Maryland understands their concern and wants to hear their voice in our approach to dealing with the climate crisis.

For numerous reasons the Cedar Lane Environmental Justice Ministry supports HB596 and requests a FAVORABLE decision in committee. Thank you.

HB596-ENT-GCAN-FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Lore Rosenthal

Position: FAV



Committee: Environment & Transportation Committee

Testimony on: HB596 Environmental Human Rights Amendment

Organization: Greenbelt Climate Action Network

Submitting: Kathleen Bartolomeo

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: Hearing Wed, Feb 23

Dear Chairman and Committee Members:

The Greenbelt Climate Action Network (GCAN) is writing in **support of HB596 Environmental Human Rights Amendment.**

Our most important message is **LET THE VOTERS DECIDE!**

GCAN's mission is to educate residents about climate change, “systemic” solutions, how they can change their behaviors to be more sustainable, and take personal, local, systemic, and political action.

There are more than 100 constitutions across the world that have adopted a human right to a healthy environment, often serving as power to protect the natural world. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G19/355/14/PDF/G1935514.pdf?OpenElement> Several states, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Montana, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island, have language in their constitutions about protecting the environment. Other states are in the process of protecting their environment. We are hoping that Maryland can join this group and make climate a priority for our citizens.

At this time 30 delegates have signed this bill. From polls taken 75% of Marylanders would vote for this amendment if placed on the ballot.

As you know, communities of color bear a disproportionate burden of the ill effects of pollution due to proximity to toxic facilities. Southern Maryland’s two areas, Brandywine 4 coal fired power plants, toxic waste, Rt. 5 and 301. Eagle Harbor’s Mayor Noah Waters says that it “seems that it’s a no-brainer” to have this amendment as it establishes a framework.

Over 85% of Marylanders live in counties that do not meet EPA healthy air standards for smog pollution. Baltimore, for example has one of the highest rates of childhood asthma in the country, 20% – more than double the national average.

While the Maryland Constitution declares the rights to vote and to education mention of the environment is nowhere to be found.

This amendment would make a healthful environment a core responsibility and priority of our government, requiring the state to protect these rights for Marylanders today and for future generations. Over time it, would serve as a foundation for more effective environmental laws, regulations, and administration.

It would state that each person, as a matter of basic human dignity, has a fundamental and inalienable right to a health, sustainable environment.

The State also, would be the trustee, protecting, conserving, managing, and enhancing Maryland's natural and cultural resources, including its air, lands, waters, wildlife, and ecosystems, for the benefit and enjoyment of both present and future generations.

After this bill passes by a 3/5 majority, it will go for a referendum in November. It is time to let the voters decide if they want to add these ideas to our state constitution.

For all these reasons, we recommend a **FAVORABLE report for Bill HB596** Environmental Human Rights Amendment In the Environment & Transportation Committee.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Bartolomeo, Volunteer
Greenbelt Climate Action Network

HB 596 Latino Caucus FAV

Uploaded by: Madelin Martinez

Position: FAV



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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KAREN LEWIS YOUNG

TO: Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Delegate Dana Stein, Vice Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)
DATE: 2/21/2022
RE: HB0596 Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights
The MLLC supports HB0596 Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB0596.

Pollution is concentrated in communities of color and those with low incomes across the state, including Baltimore City, Charles County, Prince George's County and the Eastern Shore. Heart attacks, strokes, lung cancer, premature births, childhood obesity, autism, and dementia; are some of the side effects which people living near high levels of air pollution must endure. Pollution hits Latinos harder than almost anyone in the country: 2 in 5 Latinos live within 30 miles of a power plant.

In 1973, the General Assembly passed the Maryland Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) which states that “each person has a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful environment”). Yet MEPA only articulates this right as a policy. It has lacked enforcement over the past half-century. This bill will put MEPA’s language in the Declaration of Rights of the constitution, by adding two new protections in the Declaration of Rights.

- Each person has the fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and stable environment.
- The state is the trustee of Maryland's natural resources, including its air, lands, waters, wildlife, and ecosystems, protecting them for both current and future generations. Moreover, this constitutional amendment would provide necessary guideposts for the adoption and implementation of future environmental laws and policy. Environmental human rights are emerging as the foundation for strengthening all manner of environmental protections. And critical for today, Environmental Human Rights can fight for environmental justice, addressing problems such as cumulative impacts caused by regrettable historic decisions such as clustering polluting sources in communities of color and low-income communities. Overall, this amendment will clarify the state’s environmental priorities, guide and strengthen subsequent legislation, and codify the state’s public trust obligations.

The MLLC supports this bill and urges a favorable report on HB0596.

HB596_FAV_Latino_Caucus

Uploaded by: Madelin Martinez

Position: FAV



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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The MLLC supports HB0596 Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB0596.

Pollution is concentrated in communities of color and those with low incomes across the state, including Baltimore City, Charles County, Prince George's County and the Eastern Shore. Heart attacks, strokes, lung cancer, premature births, childhood obesity, autism, and dementia; are some of the side effects which people living near high levels of air pollution must endure. Pollution hits Latinos harder than almost anyone in the country: 2 in 5 Latinos live within 30 miles of a power plant.

In 1973, the General Assembly passed the Maryland Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) which states that “each person has a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful environment”). Yet MEPA only articulates this right as a policy. It has lacked enforcement over the past half-century. This bill will put MEPA’s language in the Declaration of Rights of the constitution, by adding two new protections in the Declaration of Rights.

- Each person has the fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and stable environment.
- The state is the trustee of Maryland's natural resources, including its air, lands, waters, wildlife, and ecosystems, protecting them for both current and future generations. Moreover, this constitutional amendment would provide necessary guideposts for the adoption and implementation of future environmental laws and policy. Environmental human rights are emerging as the foundation for strengthening all manner of environmental protections. And critical for today, Environmental Human Rights can fight for environmental justice, addressing problems such as cumulative impacts caused by regrettable historic decisions such as clustering polluting sources in communities of color and low-income communities. Overall, this amendment will clarify the state’s environmental priorities, guide and strengthen subsequent legislation, and codify the state’s public trust obligations.

The MLLC supports this bill and urges a favorable report on HB0596.

HB0596_mneuman_MDEHR_fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Margaret Neuman

Position: FAV

February 19, 2022
HB 596
Environment Transportation Committee
Position: Favorable

Environment and Transportation Committee Members,

I am formally submitting this written testimony in favor of HB 596 to codify the human right to live and breathe in a healthful and stable environment into the Maryland Constitution.

Everyone has a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful environment with access to clean air, water, land, and a stable climate, and the peace of mind that this right is protected legally. If added to the Declaration of Rights section in the Maryland State Constitution, this glaringly essential right will be recognized as morally proportional to civil rights such as freedom of speech and peaceful assembly. The right would be self-executing, and as such, would enable individuals to sue the state and be heard in court if this sacred right is violated. In this way, protection of the environment would be of utmost importance and priority to the state government.

There is precedent and proof that constitutional amendments legally guarding the right to a healthy environment strengthen both the state and local governments' ability to do so. Compared to other environmental policy, states with environmental rights amendments in their constitutions— including New York, Pennsylvania, Montana, and Hawaii among others— have most successfully upheld their state and municipal governments' right to both protect natural resources and make land use decisions in their jurisdictions.

BIPOC and low income communities suffer disproportionately from environmental degradation. These marginalized communities are subject to greater concentrations of pollution and environmental harm— especially that of air. As a result of exposure to pollutants, members of communities such as these experience serious medical and health consequences, like asthma in children. If passed into law in the state constitution, the Maryland state government would be obligated to remedy these urgent public health disparities and protect its BIPOC communities from further health damage. Enough said.

Thank you for your time and consideration in supporting this measure.

Respectfully,

Maggie Neuman

St. Mary's City
Intern, Sierra Club Maryland Chapter
E-mail: mrneuman@smcm.edu

HB 596_mgoldstein_fav 2022.pdf

Uploaded by: Mathew Goldstein

Position: FAV



Secular Maryland

secularmaryland@tutanota.com

February 23, 2022

HB 596 - SUPPORT

Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights

Dear Chair Barve, Vice-Chair Stein, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

We depend on clean air, clean water, healthy soil, and a stable environment. Maryland residents face ongoing exposures to pollutants in the air, water, and land which have negatively impacted public health with increased rates of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease [DeVries R, Kriebel D, Sama S. Outdoor Air Pollution and COPD-Related Emergency Department Visits, Hospital Admissions, and Mortality: A Meta-Analysis. *COPD*. 2017 Feb;14(1):113-121. doi: 10.1080/15412555.2016.1216956. Epub 2016 Aug 26. PMID: 27564008], chronic bronchitis [Hooper LG, Young MT, Keller JP, Szpiro AA, O'Brien KM, Sandler DP, Vedal S, Kaufman JD, London SJ. Ambient Air Pollution and Chronic Bronchitis in a Cohort of U.S. Women. *Environ Health Perspect*. 2018 Feb 6;126(2):027005. doi: 10.1289/EHP2199. PMID: 29410384; PMCID: PMC6066337], emphysema [Wang M, Aaron CP, Madrigano J, Hoffman EA, Angelini E, Yang J, Laine A, Vetterli TM, Kinney PL, Sampson PD, Sheppard LE, Szpiro AA, Adar SD, Kirwa K, Smith B, Lederer DJ, Diez-Roux AV, Vedal S, Kaufman JD, Barr RG. Association Between Long-term Exposure to Ambient Air Pollution and Change in Quantitatively Assessed Emphysema and Lung Function. *JAMA*. 2019 Aug 13;322(6):546-556. doi: 10.1001/jama.2019.10255. PMID: 31408135; PMCID: PMC6692674], hemorrhagic stroke [Sun S, Stewart JD, Eliot MN, Yanosky JD, Liao D, Tinker LF, Eaton CB, Whitsel EA, Wellenius GA. Short-term exposure to air pollution and incidence of stroke in the Women's Health Initiative. *Environ Int*. 2019 Nov;132:105065. doi: 10.1016/j.envint.2019.105065. Epub 2019 Aug 2. PMID: 31382185; PMCID: PMC6754774], breast cancer [Cheng I, Tseng C, Wu J, Yang J, Conroy SM, Shariff-Marco S, Li L, Hertz A, Gomez SL, Le Marchand L, Whittemore AS, Stram DO, Ritz B, Wu AH. Association between ambient air pollution and breast cancer risk: The multiethnic cohort study. *Int J Cancer*. 2020 Feb 1;146(3):699-711. doi: 10.1002/ijc.32308. Epub 2019 Apr 25. PMID: 30924138; PMCID: PMC6765455], non-Hodgkins lymphoma [Smith MT, Jones RM, Smith AH. Benzene exposure and risk of non-Hodgkin lymphoma. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev*. 2007 Mar;16(3):385-91. doi: 10.1158/1055-9965.EPI-06-1057. Epub 2007 Mar 2. PMID: 17337645], lung cancer [Lin CK, Lin RT, Chen T, Zigler C, Wei Y, Christiani DC. A global perspective on coal-fired power plants and burden of lung cancer. *Environ Health*. 2019 Jan 28;18(1):9. doi: 10.1186/s12940-019-0448-8. PMID: 30691464; PMCID: PMC6350330], various severe neurological disorders including dementia [Shi L, Wu X, Danesh Yazdi M, Braun D, Abu Awad Y, Wei Y, Liu P, Di Q, Wang Y, Schwartz J, Dominici F, Kioumourtoglou MA, Zanobetti A. Long-term effects of PM_{2.5} on neurological disorders in the American Medicare population: a longitudinal cohort study. *Lancet Planet Health*. 2020 Dec;4(12):e557-e565. doi:

10.1016/S2542-5196(20)30227-8. Epub 2020 Oct 19. PMID: 33091388; PMCID: PMC7720425]. The pandemic has revealed that increased exposure to air pollution increased the likelihood of Covid19 mortality [Wu X, Nethery RC, Sabath BM, Braun D, Dominici F. Exposure to air pollution and COVID-19 mortality in the United States: A nationwide cross-sectional study. Preprint. medRxiv. 2020;2020.04.05.20054502. Published 2020 Apr 7. doi:10.1101/2020.04.05.20054502].

In 1973 the Maryland General Assembly passed the Maryland Environmental Policy Act which recognized that “each person has the fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful environment.” Yet we have not officially established this as our right right in the state constitution. By enacting this amendment we create an enforceable right to a healthful environment. We strengthen state and local governments’ ability to protect natural resources via laws and regulations. We create a legal guardrail to prevent the most egregious forms of environmental harm.

Our environment depends on us, no supernatural agent will save us from ourselves. We either diminish our environment or we protect and enhance it by our inactions or actions. Secular Maryland supports this amendment.

Respectfully,
Mathew Goldstein
3838 Early Glow Ln
Bowie, MD

HB 596 - Constitutional Amendment – Environmental

Uploaded by: Matt Peterson

Position: FAV

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Bolton Street Synagogue

Chevrei Ahavas Chesed, Inc.

Chevrei Tzedek Congregation

Chizuk Amuno Congregation

Congregation Beit Tikvah

Congregation Beth Shalom of

Carroll County

Congregation Tiferes Yisroel

Federation of Jewish Women's

Organizations of Maryland

Hadassah

Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation

J Street

Jewish Federation of Howard County

Jewish Labor Committee

Jewish War Veterans

Jewish War Veterans, Ladies Auxiliary

Jewish Women International

Jews For Judaism

Moses Montefiore Anshe Emunah

Hebrew Congregation

National Council of Jewish Women

Ner Tamid Congregation

Rabbinical Council of America

Religious Zionists of America

Shaarei Tfiloh Congregation

Shomrei Emunah Congregation

Simon E. Sobeloff Jewish Law Society

Suburban Orthodox Congregation

Temple Beth Shalom

Temple Isaiah

Zionist Organization of America

Baltimore District



WRITTEN TESTIMONY

House Bill 596 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

Environment and Transportation Committee

February 23, 2022

SUPPORT

Background: House Bill 596 (HB596) proposes a constitutional amendment to establish that every person has the fundamental right to a healthful and sustainable environment. The amendment would require the State to serve as the trustee of the State's natural resources, including the air, land, water, wildlife, and ecosystems of the State, and to conserve, protect, and enhance the State's natural resources for the benefit of every person, including present and future generations.

Written Comments: The urgency of the climate crisis and the inequity of its consequences, cannot be understated. It is the single greatest existential threat we face right now, and it therefore needs to be addressed *now*. The measures outlined in this bill are ambitious and will not be easy, but are necessary. For certain parts of our state, it already is too late, and if we do not act, it will be too late for the rest.

The Jewish concept of *tikkun olam* teaches us to repair the world in which we live in. Jewish law clearly states that we are not to destroy the public domain. If passed, this bill would immediately put us on the track to reverse decades of pollution that have contributed significantly to the decline of our environment and has for generations disproportionately impacted communities of color.

The Baltimore Jewish Council and the The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore are committed to repairing our world. We represent The Pearlstone Center in Reisterstown, MD, a conference center and farm that employs and teaches sustainable practices, many of which are called for in this bill. We encourage this committee to join us in our mission to create a cleaner Maryland that is healthier for everyone. With this in mind, the Baltimore Jewish Council urges a favorable report of HB 596.

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.

BALTIMORE JEWISH COUNCIL

5750 Park Heights Avenue, Suite 329 • Baltimore, Maryland 21215

410-542-4850 • fax 410-542-4834 • baltjc.org

Member of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs

Baltimore Jewish Council is an agency of The Associated



HB0596_mmcclellan_MDEHR_fav .pdf

Uploaded by: Maureen McClellan

Position: FAV

Written Testimony: MDEHR – Environment and Transportation Committee

Laila Reimanis, Maureen McClellan, Pedro Polanco

Dear Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee and Committee Chair Delegate Barve. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

Our names are Laila Reimanis, Maureen McClellan, and Pedro Polanco. We are Master of Health Sciences candidates at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in the Department of Environmental Health and Engineering. Prior to pursuing Master of Health Sciences degrees, our backgrounds range from business, medicine, and environmental policy. We, along with several of our peers, worked with the Maryland Environmental Human Rights Campaign to create an economic analysis of the costs associated without an adoption of an environmental human rights amendment in Maryland. We focused our analysis on the costs of inaction associated with physical harm from air quality and the costs of children's mental health. Our collaboration with the Maryland Environmental Human Rights Campaign was completed as a practicum project in our Applied Environmental Health Practice course.

Our testimony today will address the financial burdens that Maryland incurs without an environmental human rights amendment, methods and assumptions for our cost analysis, and the implications for Maryland's future.

Environmental Human Right Amendments Background

Since 1970, 7 states have passed legislation to ensure that their citizens have the right to a healthy environment. This includes Pennsylvania, Montana, Illinois, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and most recently New York.¹ An environmental amendment awards the state and its citizens the role of good stewardship under legal authority in maintaining resources such as clean air and quality water. In protecting the right to a healthy environment, legislators place

¹ Williams, K. (2021, November 1). *Fundamental Environmental Rights: State Constitutions as a vehicle of change*. Jurist. Retrieved February 20, 2022, from <https://www.jurist.org/commentary/2021/11/kirsten-williams-environmental-rights-amendments/#:~:text=Since%20the%201970s%2C%20political%20branches, followed%20by%20Montana%20in%201972>

priority on protecting human health and quality of living for a future that is not limited by a changing political landscape.

We acknowledge and appreciate the progress that has been put forth by this committee to create a healthy environment in the state of Maryland, and we urge you to continue including health in all policies by passing this legislation for our futures and our children's futures.

Cost Analysis

We estimate that the current health cost to Maryland without an environmental human rights amendment is over \$6 billion associated with physical harm due to air quality and children's mental health. These costs are likely underestimated.

We chose to calculate air quality and children's mental health concerns because we felt that these are some of the most pressing environmental issues in Maryland. The city of Baltimore and Maryland have a wide range of air quality variability throughout the city and state. Communities living near and around the Baltimore Incinerator, an unmistakable Baltimore landmark, will have different air quality exposures than communities such as those living in Frostburg, Maryland. Air quality is an environmental attribute that impacts everyone.

Many of us are reluctant to be excited about a future with uncertainty in which extreme weather occurrences are expected to intensify and adverse health outcomes are to increase. This opinion is shared by many people our age globally, who feel unsure of what future challenges will be, due to governmental inaction to reduce and mitigate the environmental impacts.² For this reason, children's mental health was our second subject for analysis.

Methods

We come to present our findings after spending months assessing the literature, consulting subject matter experts, and quantifying an expected economic impact.

² Marks, Elizabeth and Hickman, Caroline and Pihkala, Panu and Clayton, Susan and Lewandowski, Eric R. and Mayall, Elouise E. and Wray, Britt and Mellor, Catriona and van Susteren, Lise, Young People's Voices on Climate Anxiety, Government Betrayal and Moral Injury: A Global Phenomenon. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3918955> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3918955>.

In reviewing available studies, research, and literature, we found that there exist limited resources on this subject. However, from the limited studies available, we identified different frameworks for assessing the population attributable factor. A population attributable factor is the impact that a certain risk or exposure has on a population. After consulting with subject matter experts and economists, we were surprised to find that population attributable factors for air quality and children’s mental health caused by poor environmental exposures are not readily available. We modified our approach to reflect a population attributable factor (PAF) associated with conservative (25% PAF), moderate (50% PAF), and extreme (75% PAF) cost predictions.

In addition to these calculations we also:

- Consulted Literature – National and State databases (Appendix A)
- Consulted Subject Matter Experts and Economists
- Developed Frameworks and Assumptions (Figure 1 and Figure 2)
- Acknowledged Uncertainties (Appendix B)

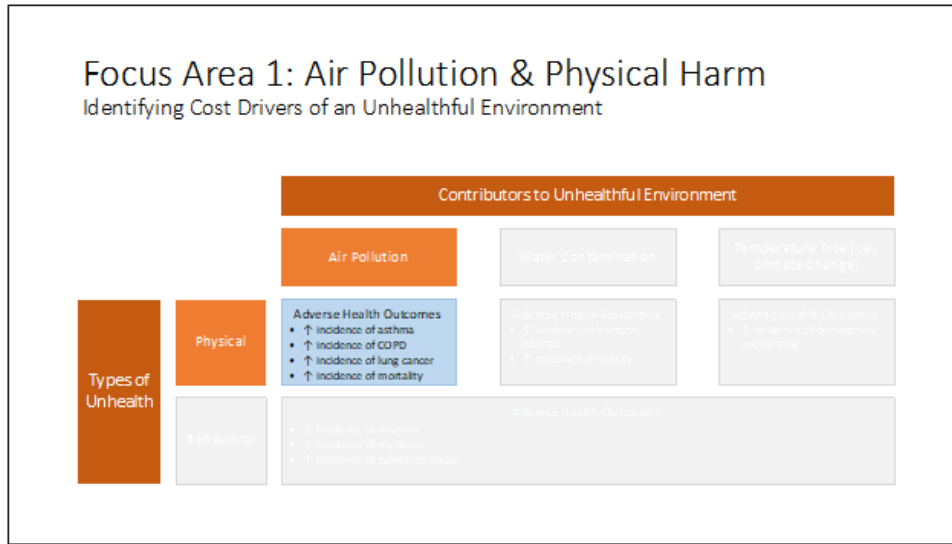
The framework as referred to in Figure 1 was created to quantify the costs of air pollution and its association with physical illness. It shows the connection between the environment and adverse health outcomes. Using this framework, we gathered healthcare costs attributed to adverse health outcomes including asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and lung cancer to use as cost references. The sums of these costs were totaled and then applied with different population attributable factor scenarios (Table 1). This allowed us to directly associate the cost of inaction of poor air quality and healthcare costs.

Table 1. Total Annual Cost of Physical Health Expenses Attributable to Inaction

	Conservative (25% PAF)	Moderate (50% PAF)	Extreme (75% PAF)
Asthma	\$4.5 B*	\$9 B	\$13.5 B
COPD	\$269 M*	\$538 M	\$807 M
Lung Cancer	\$1.1 B	\$2.2 B	\$3.3 B
Total	\$5.87 B	\$11.74 B	\$17.61 B

* M - Million **B – Billion

Figure 1.



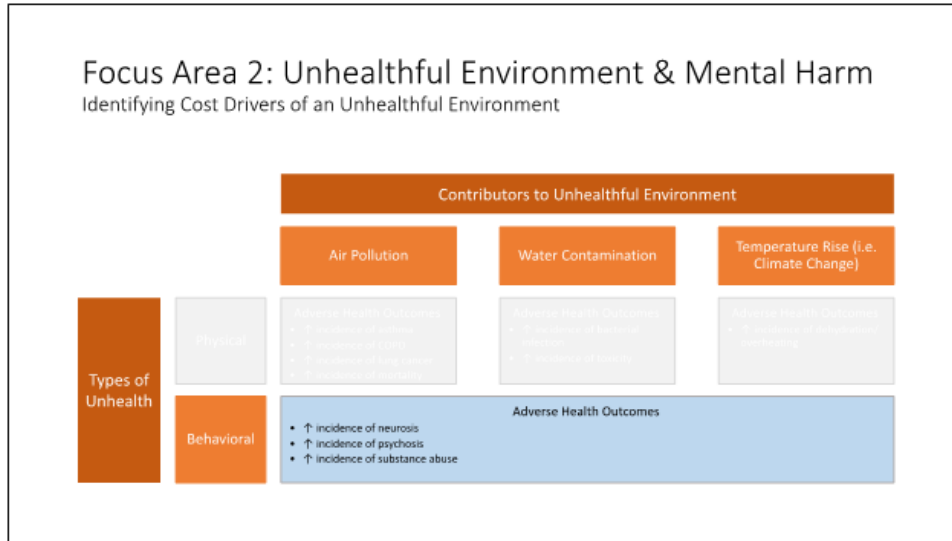
The framework referred to in Figure 2 was created to quantify the costs of mental health issues in children under the age of 18, attributed to environmental unhealth. Using this framework, we estimated the environmental causes of childhood and adolescent mental health (such as psychosis and anxiety), mood disorders, substance abuse, and developmental disorders. We then calculated the healthcare costs associated with each of these disorders and applied three different population attributable factor scenarios.

Table 1: Annual Economic Burden of Environmentally Mental Health Illness in Maryland Children Adjusted for Inflation

	Conservative (25% PAF)	Moderate (50% PAF)	Extreme (75% PAF)
Psychotic Disorders	\$2 M*	\$4 M	\$6 M
Anxiety Disorders	\$695 M	\$1.390 B	\$2.085 B
Mood Disorders	\$513.5 M	\$1.027 B	\$1.540 B
Substance Abuse	\$96.2 M	\$192.5 M	\$802 M
Developmental Disorders	\$261 M	\$431 M	\$4.722 B
Total	\$1.568 B**	\$3.044 B	\$4.723 B

* M - Million **B – Billion

Figure 2.



Indirect and Direct Costs:

Our data shows that healthcare costs associated with an unhealthy environment can be significant. The costs provided are associated with healthcare costs but do not necessarily delineate indirect costs associated with adverse health outcomes attributable to an unhealthy environment. (Indirect costs related to an unhealthy environment can include lost productivity, absenteeism, and lost years of life.) This signifies that our calculation likely underestimates the total burden of costs on communities, small business owners, and healthcare professionals.

Implications

While there is certainly room for improvement in the data when trying to quantify the cost of an unhealthy environment, our research on the available data shows that there can be large economic implications for not providing a healthy environment. It is our recommendation that the State of Maryland adopt an environmental human rights amendment to provide its citizens assurance about the quality of their future and the environment that they live in. This amendment works to mitigate future environmental risks creating better standards of living. We acknowledge and commend the strong work that the current chair has done to improve quality of life in the State of Maryland by improving environmental impacts. We believe that this amendment is the next step towards ensuring a future that supports Maryland's approach to healthy citizens by incorporating health in all policies.

In conclusion, we feel that this amendment is important for multiple reasons. The data that we have presented demonstrates the economic impact of inaction. While there is surely a financial cost associated with this amendment, the cost of inaction is greater than the cost of potential future litigation.

We bring this information to this committee in hopes that it will motivate action to put this bill into law, the people's right to a healthy environment, and thus their right to live healthy lives. The passing of this bill could be the difference between a future in which our children endure environmental harm due to the decisions of today or a future that gives way to the next generation's prosperity. We bring this call to action because we realize how quickly times are changing and with them how our environment and health change.

Appendix:

A. Publicly available data

1. Maryland Statutory Reports

- a. SB340/HB1225 Health in All Policies Workgroup 2019 Report³
- b. Maryland Department of Mental Health and Hygiene, Maryland Department of Environmental Health: Maryland's Children and The Environment

2. National Surveys and Databases

- a. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality: COPD Hospitalizations^{4 5}
- b. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network Query Tool⁶
- c. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Model Based Prevalence Estimates 2018- 2019⁷

³ <https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc5300/sc5339/000113/024600/024610/20200396e.pdf>

⁴ COPD Burden. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.lung.org/research/trends-in-lung-disease/copd-trends-brief/copd-burden>

⁵ Wier, L.M. (Thomson Reuters), Elixhauser, A. (AHRQ), Pfuntner, A. (Thomson Reuters), Au, D.H. (Department of Veterans Affairs). Overview of Hospitalizations among Patients with COPD, 2008. HCUP Statistical Brief #106. February 2011. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, MD. <http://www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb106.pdf>

⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). *National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network Query Tool*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. from <https://ephtracking.cdc.gov/DataExplorer/>.

⁷ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality. (2019). National Survey on Drug Use and Health 2018-2019 (NSDUH-2018-2019-DS0001). Retrieved from <https://datafiles.samhsa.gov/>

- d. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: Climate Change and Social Vulnerability in the United States: A Focus on Six Impacts⁸
3. Census data
 - a. Maryland County Populations⁹
 - b. Population of Maryland¹⁰
 - c. U.S. Population¹¹
- B. Uncertainties
- Reported costs do not attempt to estimate costs associated with:
 - physical harm attributable to water contamination,
 - physical harm attributable to increased greenhouse gas emissions,
 - children experiencing multiple health disorders, or
 - adult mental health and substance disorders attributable to environmental factors.
 - Reported costs do not attempt to estimate costs associated with fines, lawsuits, or externalities to Maryland residents (e.g., out-of-pocket medical expenses, cost of pain and suffering, missed wages from work, etc.).

Due to limitations in research focus, estimates of population attributable fractions (PAFs) for mental health and substance abuse disorders and environmental exposures are not available. Assumptions for PAFs are based on statistics from published survey results and qualitative research.

⁸ EPA. 2021. Climate Change and Social Vulnerability in the United States: A Focus on Six Impacts. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA 430-R-21-003. From: https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-09/climate-vulnerability_september-2021_508.pdf

⁹ Population of counties in Maryland (2021). (n.d.). Retrieved December 13, 2021, from <https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-counties/states/md>.

¹⁰ *Census profile: Maryland*. Census Reporter. (n.d.). Retrieved December 13, 2021, from <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/04000US24-maryland/>.

¹¹ *U.S. and World Population Clock*. United States Census Bureau. (n.d.). Retrieved December 8, 2021, from <https://www.census.gov/popclock/>.

Megan Latshaw.pdf

Uploaded by: Megan Latshaw

Position: FAV

Environmental Rights Amendment

Public Health Need | Submitted by Megan Weil Latshaw, PhD MHS

Good afternoon Mr. Chair and Committee members, I'm here to speak in support of House Bill 596.

I'm Dr. Megan Latshaw, and live in Baltimore City in District 43 with Delegates [Anderson](#) and [Boyce](#), and am on faculty at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in the Department of Environmental Health & Engineering. The opinions expressed herein are my own and do not necessarily reflect the views of Hopkins.

Some people think of the earth as a fishbowl. If you ever won a goldfish at the fair but didn't have a fancy aquarium, the fish died quickly. That's because too much of its waste built up in the water, and it ran out of oxygen.

Just like the fish, we humans use up our natural resources, and we pollute the planet with our waste. Pollution can be released directly into the air or water, and gets into plants and animals. Ultimately, it gets into us.

All of this impacts our health. . . Our leading causes of death in were heart disease, cancer, and stroke. These illnesses typically aren't linked to infectious diseases, rather they're linked to behaviors, genetics and our environment.

You already know about the connections between environmental exposures and cancer, as well as connections between air pollution and respiratory diseases. But not many people realize how we design our communities contributes to our health. Those of us who live in communities designed for walking or who live near parks are much more likely to engage in physical activity. Those of us who live in communities designed for cars are much more likely to drive, leading to increased air pollution and greenhouse gases.

It's these and so many other connections between our environment and health, that make an amendment like this so important. This amendment brings a systems approach to caring for the environment rather than trying to address individual issues as they arise.

[CDC EH Tracking Network

- 9.4% of people in MD have asthma (vs 7% nationwide)

- 64% of people living in Maryland lived within half a mile of a park (vs 75% nationwide [www.nrpa.org › globalassets › engagement-survey-report-2018])

Balt Sust Commn HB596 - Const Amendment.pdf

Uploaded by: Miriam Avins

Position: FAV

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

pass hb596.pdf

Uploaded by: Mitchell Smith

Position: FAV

We call upon the Maryland General Assembly, specifically the House Environment and Transportation Committee, to advocate for the Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Human Rights by adopting a favorable report of HB596. The right to a safe and clean environment is vital not only for the sake of future generations, but for the very existence of human society. It has been projected that more than 30% of the planet will no longer be human-inhabitable by 2070 (Xu, Chi, Kohle et al., published 2020). The planet is actively dying, and without this much-needed legislative backing we will not be able to avoid environmental deadlock. Neither myself nor any other members of my generation will be able to have children if you are going to leave us on a dead planet like this. I would likewise appreciate your advocacy for HB596.

MD Catholic Conference_FAV_HB0596.pdf

Uploaded by: MJ Kraska

Position: FAV



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

February 23, 2022

HB 596

Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights

House Environment & Transportation Committee

Position: Support

The Maryland Catholic Conference (“Conference”) represents the public policy interests of the three Roman Catholic (arch) dioceses serving Maryland: the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington.

House Bill 596 proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland to establish that every person has the fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment; and requiring the State to serve as the trustee of the State's natural resources, including the air, land, water, wildlife, and ecosystems of the State, and to conserve, protect, and enhance the State's natural resources for the benefit of every person, including present and future generations.

As Pope Francis has written, climate change “*represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day*” (*Laudato Si’*, no. 25), threatening the wellbeing of peoples and the environment. Catholic social teaching envisions a sustainable and authentic human development, where technological solutions respect the principle of integral ecology and take into account social, economic and ecological considerations.

House Bill 596 echoes key themes in Catholic social teachings and is in harmony with various elements of Pope Francis’s encyclical *Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home* (LS). Its emphasis on an “inalienable right” to a healthy environment fits squarely with Catholic social teaching on the dignity of the human person and our responsibilities for future generations. Its description of “natural resources for the benefit of every person” echoes the Church's teaching that the “gifts of the earth belong to everyone” (LS, p. 71). Likewise, the Amendment addresses the important issue of accountability (LS, p. 61) by ensuring that matters of environmental justice can be addressed by all of Maryland’s diverse citizenry.

The Conference appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 596.

Environmental Human Rights Amendt.pdf

Uploaded by: nanci Wilkinson

Position: FAV

Committee: House Environment & Transportation

Legislation: HB 0596: Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland to establish that every person has the fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment; and requiring the State to serve as the trustee of the State's natural resources, including the air, land, water, wildlife, and ecosystems of the State, and to conserve, protect, and enhance the State's natural resources for the benefit of every person, including present and future generations.

Organization: Environmental Justice Ministry Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

Position: Favorable

Hearing: February 23, 2022

Dear Committee Chair and Committee Members.

The Environmental Justice Ministry Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist supports HB 0596 (cross filed as SB 0783) as the most significant Amendment the people of the state of Maryland will have to vote on during this time of Climate Emergency. Our faith holds the inherent worth and dignity of every person which affirms that every person has the fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment.

Please vote favorably on this key amendment for the people of Maryland to decide.

Nanci Wilkinson

Environmental Justice Ministry

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

SSC EHRA (HB596) Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Nancy Barrett

Position: FAV



University of Maryland Student Government Association Sustainability Committee (SSC)

Honorable Chair Barve and esteemed Delegates of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

SSC is the body of the University of Maryland's Student Government Association (SGA) responsible for representing the environmental interests, concerns, and ideas of the student body. Our members come from all over the state and are pursuing degrees in dozens of academic fields. Our position as students in a time of great environmental change has pushed us to prioritize advocacy for environmental initiatives that will aid us in protecting and ensuring our future. Located in Prince George's County, Maryland, UMD is a significant stakeholder in the local economic and political success of the region. In drafting this testimony, SSC intends to use our position as representatives of the undergraduate student body to envision a better future for those who will one day inherit this planet. As members of Maryland's next generation, we call upon the Maryland General Assembly, specifically the House Environment and Transportation Committee, to advocate for the **Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Human Rights** by adopting a **favorable** report of **HB596**.

In order to move towards a more environmentally just and equitable future, we must begin by acknowledging the historic legacy of environmental injustice perpetrated by our own local, state and federal institutions. The very land that we stand on today was once governed by the Accohannock, Assateaque, Choptank, Delaware, Matapeake, Nanticoke, Piscataway, Pocomoke, and Shawnee Tribes prior to the forced dispossession and genocide of Indigenous peoples.¹ As we work to advance environmental justice, it's important to understand how historic systemic discriminatory policies and practices have contributed to the deep-rooted inequities that continue to prevail to this day.

Despite the Maryland General Assembly recognizing that "each person has a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful environment" with the passing of the Maryland Environmental Policy Act in 1973, we continue to see massive disparities in environmental pollution and health throughout Maryland today.² Pollution in Maryland is largely concentrated in communities of color and lower income areas, particularly in Baltimore City, Charles County,

¹ <https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/01glance/native/html/01native.html>

² Md. Code Ann., Nat. Res. §§ 1-301 to 1-305 (West) (hereinafter "MEPA").



Prince George's County – Maryland's three majority-Black counties – and the Eastern Shore.³ For example, this is evident in the shocking 18 year difference in life expectancy of residents between the predominantly White community of Roland Park, Baltimore and residents in the predominantly Black communities of Downtown Baltimore.⁴ Asthma hospitalizations in Baltimore are 4x higher than the average rate in Maryland.^{5,6} These sobering statistics reveal generations of environmental injustice in the making. Dr. Bullard, renowned professor of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy at Texas Southern University and recognized “Father of Environmental Justice,” describes environmental injustice as the systemic barriers, policies, and institutional factors that have created the disparate vulnerabilities we see today, such as the disproportionate burden of toxic waste facilities in minority and lower income communities who for decades, “have been the victim of racial redlining, of neighborhoods and communities where the home loans were denied, insurance was denied, and where basic services were denied, you can see the footprint of that denial, of that racial discrimination.”⁷ In order to remediate these long standing inequities, we must first establish that as a basic human right, every Marylander deserves the right to live in a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

As representatives of the University of Maryland's College Park Student Government Association Sustainability Committee, we have a particular concern and stake in addressing environmental justice issues as students and residents of Prince George's County, MD. For generations, PG County has served as a dumping ground for toxic waste and other environmental pollutants. The congregation of environmental hazards within the region is of particular concern when taking into account the history of PG County as a predominantly Black county, with Black residents accounting for 61% of the current population.⁸ Of Maryland's 24 counties, PG County has the 3rd highest number of power plants per square mile.⁹ PG County's disproportionate burden of environmental hazards coincides with national trends of minority communities being cited for polluting facilities,¹⁰ even despite PG County ranking above average in terms of median household income when compared with other Maryland counties.¹¹ This inequitable distribution of environmental pollution, even in a higher income area, highlights the central role systemic racism plays in perpetuating environmental injustices.

³ <https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper>

⁴ <https://khn.org/news/map-in-poor-baltimore-neighborhoods-life-expectancy-similar-to-developing-countries/>

⁵ <https://maps.health.maryland.gov/epht/>

⁶ <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Documents/Maryland-Asthma-Control-Program-2017-Legislative-Report.pdf>

⁷ <https://grist.org/article/robert-bullard-environmental-justice-2020-biden-race/>

⁸ <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/prince-georges-county-md>

⁹ <https://www.countyoffice.org/md-prince-georges-county-power-plant/>

¹⁰ <https://www.epa.gov/sciencematters/study-finds-exposure-air-pollution-higher-people-color-regardless-region-or-income>

¹¹ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/map/MD.princegeorgescountymaryland/INC110219>



In 2018, the Maryland General Assembly Prince established the Prince George’s County Environmental Justice Commission with the passage of HB-183.¹² This commission was created with the intention of coming to terms with the history of environmental violence perpetrated against communities of color in PG County. In a 2019 report, the commission identified 11 areas of concern within the county, including cumulative concern of environmental hazards; inequities in zoning, planning, and development; air pollution, traffic and public health; water quality, lead issues; and landfills, brownfields, and rubble fills.¹³ The report also identifies four environmental justice “hotspots” in PG County, where clusters of environmental hazards work together to amplify the threat to the health and wellbeing of nearby communities. The mere need for the commission’s establishment, in addition to its findings, highlights that we must continue to explore techniques for redressing PG’s extensive history of environmental racism and injustice.

Environmental injustice is a systemic issue, therefore in need of systemic change. Unfortunately, the Maryland Environmental Policy Act has fallen short in creating a truly just and healthy environment for every Marylander. This can in part be attributed to the fact that Maryland’s environmental laws tend to address specific issues and often lack the necessary systems of enforcement. This fractured approach is insufficient and inopportune. A constitutional amendment, as opposed to a law, would guide future policy making and address environmental and public health issues through both preventative and corrective action. Already, three states – New York, Pennsylvania and Montana – have passed similar bills and adopted constitutional environmental human rights amendments following overwhelming support at the polls. In our own home state, support among Marylanders can be seen through a recent Opinion Works, LLC survey of registered Maryland voters conducted between December 2021 - January 10, 2022 that found 76% of respondents favored the Environmental Human Rights Amendment.¹⁴ In this case, the Maryland General Assembly is tasked with allowing Maryland residents to determine for ourselves what our future can look like. As elected officials appointed to represent our best interests, it is your ethical imperative to put democracy back into the people’s hands. We call upon you to uphold the democratic process through the passage of the Environmental Human Rights Amendment Bill (HB596). Give Marylanders the autonomy to finally designate a clean environment as a basic human right.

As we have examined above, it is necessary to evaluate the current state of environmental injustices in Maryland to gain a greater understanding of the relationship between environmental

¹² https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2018RS/Chapters_noln/CH_779_hb0183t.pdf

¹³ <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/27132/Environmental-Justice-Commission-Report-Final-PDF>

¹⁴ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DKabeuZBAuYOgzv845bbDJPzfdMGYI28/view?usp=sharing>



degradation and human health. However, as we look towards an uncertain future, we find value in painting a picture of what the world could one day become. We are at a pivotal point in the history of our planet, and it is only when we come together that we can imagine a future where the health and wellbeing of all people is permanently secured. The passage of the Environmental Human Rights Amendment would be a crucial step forward in advancing environmental protection and health for all, especially within communities of color and low-income communities most impacted by environmental degradation. Maryland has the power to become a leading force in the nation as we transition towards a just and sustainable future. We find ourselves approaching a moment in history where the very viability of our planet will be called into question. As students, constituents, and members of the next generation, we turn to our representatives to fight for our futures. A constitutional right to a clean environment is essential if we hope to achieve the health and wellbeing of all.



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Position: FAV



Environment and Transportation Committee
HB 596: Constitutional Amendment: Environmental Rights
Hearing Date: February 23, 2022
Favorable

STATEMENT OF INTENT OF
THE 2022 MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS AMENDMENT HB0596
as introduced, 444th Session of the Maryland General Assembly
(January 12 through April 11, 2022)

Now before the House Committee on Environment and Transportation is HB 0596, which, if passed, will submit to the voters the proposed Article 48 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights, referred to herein as the Environmental Human Rights Amendment (“EHRA”).¹ The EHRA begins by recognizing, at the highest level of Maryland law, that every person’s right to a healthful, sustainable environment is fundamental, inalienable, and not to be infringed. It thus lays an enduring foundation for the comprehensive and effective protection of that right. In addition, the EHRA separately prescribes the State’s duty, as trustee, to safeguard Maryland’s natural resources for the benefit of every person, including present and future generations. This analysis, prepared by the Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human Rights,² elaborates on the EHRA’s purpose and effect, consistent with settled principles of constitutional interpretation.³

I. THE REASONS FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

“[S]tates in the United States have a long tradition of constitutionalizing environmental protection.”⁴ Maryland is in the minority of States whose fundamental charters have no provision that protects the environment or natural resources.⁵ It is long past time to align the Declaration of Rights with the views of Marylanders as to “the fundamental rights of humankind.”⁶ As Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Will Smith recently observed, “studies show that without instituting significant protections, between 2027 and 2042 we will face seismic, dangerous, and irreversible shifts in the earth’s operating systems.”⁷ Even today, despite “the principle of equal protection of the laws” to which this State subscribes,⁸ many Marylanders—a majority of whom are members of historically disadvantaged communities—are facing hostile environmental conditions. These conditions inhibit the full expression of their human dignity.

The EHRA does not supplant legislation intended to remedy these problems. But it will be the polestar for the State’s legislature, executive, and judiciary as they, respectively, create, implement, and interpret those remedies.⁹ To the extent that existing remedies are, or later will prove, inadequate to ensure every person’s right to a healthful and sustainable environment, or to resist further degradation of the State’s natural resources, the right to a healthful and sustainable environment will serve as a self-executing floor of protection. The State’s trusteeship duties will in turn undergird its own authorities to conserve, protect and enhance its natural resources.

II. THE MEANING OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT

The EHRA is simply worded, like other articles of the Declaration of Rights. But it is not a mere statement of principles. It is a directive capable of execution.¹⁰ That directive has two parts. First, in Subsections A and B, the EHRA enshrines an individual, enforceable right to a

healthful and sustainable environment that is already recognized in Maryland law.¹¹ Second, in Subsection C, the EHRA defines the scope of the natural resources of which the government is trustee and the duties that the trusteeship imposes on the State. The preamble to this legislation recites four of the foundational truths that underlie and motivate the EHRA. The text of each of these distinct portions of the legislation is reproduced and further explained below.

Preamble

The four preambular statements will not appear in the Declaration of Rights. They do not alter the EHRA's scope, but they do supply critical background and context for the amendment.¹²

1. All living things are dependent on the gifts of a healthful environment.

Healthful is defined as “beneficial to health of body or mind.”¹³ *A healthful environment* embodies those attributes of the environment that pertain to the health of *living things*. The law of Maryland has long recognized the individual right of “[e]ach person ... to a healthful environment.”¹⁴ That right, however, has yet to be secured.¹⁵

2. The full expression of human dignity is incompatible with a degraded environment.

Human dignity is the recognition that every human being has equal worth that is inherent and inalienable. This State “recognizes and honors the value and dignity of every person.”¹⁶

Dignity is inexorably intertwined with environmental outcomes. *A degraded environment* frustrates the realization of the civil, political, and socioeconomic rights that advance human dignity—many of which already are manifest in the Maryland Declaration of Rights. A healthful and sustainable environment thus is indispensable to the expression of human dignity. This is not an idea “which may be in the womb of time, but whose birth is distant.”¹⁷ It has been fifty years since the Stockholm Declaration on the Human Environment—for which the United States was a chief proponent and signatory—proclaimed, as its first principle, the “common conviction” that

every individual “has the fundamental right to freedom, equality and adequate conditions of life, in an environment *of a quality that permits a life of dignity* and well-being.”¹⁸ Numerous courts have invoked the principle of human dignity when providing redress for environmental harms.¹⁹

3. *A sustainable, regenerative ecosystem and stable climate are essential to support a vibrant society and economy.*

As Maryland law has long recognized, “[t]he protection, preservation, and enhancement of the State’s diverse environment is necessary for the maintenance of the public health and welfare and the continued viability of the economy of the State.”²⁰ Because all economic activity is dependent upon the environment and its underlying resource base,²¹ ensuring *a vibrant society and economy* for future generations means that present-day economic activity cannot destabilize the climate or other elements of the State’s ecosystem. A *sustainable ecosystem* aligns economic activity with both environmental protection and human well-being.²² A *regenerative ecosystem* restores, renews, and revitalizes our sources of energy, food, and materials while ensuring that these life-sustaining resources remain available for both current and future generations. A *stable climate*, especially, is essential to human flourishing—as the General Assembly recently found, “[g]lobal warming poses a serious threat to the State’s future health, well-being, and prosperity,” and “endanger[s] the public health and welfare” of its people.²³

4. *Access to a healthful and sustainable environment is a birthright of every person.*

This last preambular statement recognizes the individual right that follows directly from the first three statements. Dignity is *a birthright of every person*, and, for reasons already stated, one’s dignity cannot be fully realized without *access to a healthful and sustainable environment*.

Subsection A

Every person has the fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment.

Section A declares the right of each person to a healthful and sustainable environment.

The word *every* means the same thing as *each*. Its usage here confirms that the EHRA creates a specific individual right rather than conferring a general benefit on the public at large.²⁴ The term *person* does not include the State.²⁵ The descriptors *fundamental* and *inalienable*, which the General Assembly has already attached to the right to a healthful environment,²⁶ ensure a level of protection comparable to that afforded by other Articles of the Declaration of Rights,²⁷ and by provisions similar to Article 48 that appear in the constitutions of other states.²⁸ As previously explained, *a healthful and sustainable environment* secures all environmental amenities essential to the sustenance of life and human dignity, including a stable climate, for present generations and those to come.

State courts interpreting this right will not write on a blank slate. In addition to the substantial body of Maryland caselaw interpreting the Maryland laws addressing similar topics, Maryland courts will consider the work of the Maryland General Assembly and Executive, as well as their counterparts in other jurisdictions with similar constitutional rights. Thirty-six states have constitutional provisions that protect the environment or natural resources.²⁹ Of those, seven States (and counting) have amended their constitutions since the 1970s to confer an individual right to a healthy environment.³⁰ Those amendments have served as a backstop against violations of individuals' right to a healthy environment, without "unduly displac[ing] legislative prerogative" to enact environmental policies, without hampering economic development, and without diminishing societal prosperity.³¹ There is no reason whatsoever to expect that Maryland will buck the trend of "beneficial operation of similar provisions in other jurisdictions."³²

Subsection B

The right enumerated under subsection (A) of this section may not be infringed.

Subsection B renders the right to a healthful and sustainable environment, as declared in Subsection A, self-executing.³³ Consistent with the General Assembly’s drafting convention, “‘*may not*’ has a mandatory negative effect and establishes a prohibition.”³⁴ Like other Declaration of Rights provisions, the right conferred by Subsection (A) can be upheld against the government and is independent of Subsection (C).

Subsection C

The State shall:

- (1) Serve as the trustee of the State’s natural resources, including the air, land, water, wildlife, and ecosystems of the State; and***
- (2) Conserve, protect, and enhance the State’s natural resources for the benefit of every person, including present and future generations.***

Subsection C is a distinct element of the EHRA that declares and defines the trusteeship of the government over the State’s natural resources. This provision likewise is designed to be self-executing.³⁵

The trustee in this case is *the State*, which includes its political subdivisions.³⁶ The trust beneficiaries are *every person*—with those terms carrying the same meaning as in Subsection A—and include both *present and future generations*. These beneficiaries are protected both individually and in the aggregate. Put another way, the trust that Subsection C establishes will further the general, long-term social and economic health of individuals and society as a whole.

The trust corpus is *the State’s natural resources*, which *include*, but are not limited to, its *air, land, water, wildlife, and ecosystems*.³⁷ The modifier of *the State* excludes private property from the trust corpus—and thus ensures that the provision’s adoption will not be interpreted as an appropriation of private property. Under the common law, the State holds both navigable

waters and the lands beneath them in trust for the public,³⁸ and certain Maryland and federal statutes have established other trust relationships in respect to other natural resources.³⁹ The EHRA elevates and clarifies the scope of the public-trust duties of the State with respect to its natural resources.

The trust duties set out in Subsection C resemble the duties of the State as natural resource trustee that already are recognized in statutory provisions and at common law. In particular, the State is to *conserve, protect, and enhance* the State's natural resources.⁴⁰ Subsection C does not prohibit use of these resources by and for the public's benefit, so long as the resources are not damaged or degraded such that they cannot be fully enjoyed by present or future generations. As the Court of Appeals has observed, "the improper use and exploitation of natural resources represent an invasion of 'the right of every resident of Maryland to an environment free from pollution.'"⁴¹

These trusteeship duties will inform the breadth and exercise of the State's power insofar as that power is "calculated to protect the environment and to preserve ... [natural resources] or public use for present and future generations of citizens."⁴² They also fortify the government's ability to establish and implement strong and effective natural resource laws, which may prove increasingly necessary given inertia or backsliding in federal law or the laws of other states.⁴³ Subsection C also boosts the ability of the State and its political subdivisions to respond to unlawful activities that harm natural resources.⁴⁴

III. THE URGENCY OF THIS LEGISLATION

Senator Will Smith has stated that "[n]othing we do this session and nothing we do in our own committees matters, if we don't ensure that we have a healthy environment for our children and

our grandchildren. We must secure those rights with a constitutional amendment.”⁴⁵ Not only will constitutionalizing the right to a healthful and sustainable environment make it a permanent feature at the highest level of this State’s legal system, the experience of other jurisdictions has proven that it also will also foster the values that this right represents far more than a piece of normal legislation (however vital) ever could.⁴⁶ Inscribing the public-trust doctrine in the Maryland Constitution also will augment the ability of State and local governments to respond to the unprecedented and future unknowable threats to Maryland’s natural resources.⁴⁷

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has sounded the alarm: “climate-related threats to Americans’ physical, social, and economic well-being are rising.”⁴⁸ These threats merit all manner of legislation from this body, but the intergenerational dimension to this challenge—the existential threat to Marylanders today and in future generations—calls for a constitutional response as well.⁴⁹ This is a human rights issue of the highest order.

It is also an issue of justice, the primary focus of the Declaration of Rights. As residents of a maritime state, all Marylanders are confronting disproportionate threats from climate change.⁵⁰ The State’s historically disadvantaged communities are even less able to prepare for and recover from the extreme weather events it creates and exacerbates, including excessive heat, flooding, and air pollution.⁵¹ Environmental justice—which necessitates “the *fair treatment* ... of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies,”⁵²—demands that no resident of this State confront an unhealthy or unsustainable environment. “The fact that people who live, learn, work, and play in America’s most polluted environments are commonly people of color and the poor is not new information.”⁵³ This body must not avert its eyes from that centuries-old reality. Securing environmental justice for everyone is a matter of such importance

that it cannot be left solely to periodic statutory initiatives. It must be inscribed as an overarching requirement in this State’s most important governing document.⁵⁴

“[E]nvironmental constitutionalism works.”⁵⁵ We urge swift passage of this legislation.

¹ HB0596 was introduced on January 31, 2022, by Delegate Wanika Fisher and 28 co-sponsors. Parallel legislation, SB783, was introduced by Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Will Smith and 15 co-sponsors on February 7, 2022.

² This analysis has benefited from, and is informed by, correspondence from the Office of the Maryland Attorney General, and inputs from the MDEHR Advisory Circle and other legal, health and environmental policy experts.

³ See *Bernstein v. State*, 422 Md. 36 (2011); *Johns Hopkins Univ. v. Williams*, 199 Md. 382, 386 (1952) (quoting *Norris v. Mayor & City Council of Baltimore*, 172 Md. 667, 675, 676 (1937)); *Baltimore v. State*, 15 Md. 376, 459 (1860); see also *Life of the Land v. Land Use Comm’n*, 623 P.2d 431, 438 & n.5 (Haw. 1981).

⁴ James R. May, *Subnational Environmental Constitutionalism and Reform in New York State*, 38 Pace L. Rev. 121, 135 (2017).

⁵ See B. Adams et al., *Environmental and Natural Resources Provisions in State Constitutions*, 22 J. Land, Res. & Env’tl. L. 73 (2002); Franklin Kury, *THE CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION TO SAVE THE PLANET* 165-77 (Env’tl. Law Inst. 2021).

⁶ Dan Friedman, *The Maryland State Constitution*, Oxford Commentaries on the State Constitutions of the United States, at 25 (2011).

⁷ Sen. Will Smith, Remarks at Citizen Rally in support of EHRA, January 14, 2022.

⁸ *Manikhi v. Mass Transit Admin.*, 360 M.D. 333, 361 (2000) (quoting *Bd. of Supervisors v. Goodsell*, 284 Md. 279, 293 n.7 (1979)).

⁹ See John Dernbach, *The Potential Meanings of a Constitutional Public Trust*, 45 Env’tl. L. 463, 515 (2015). A survey by a leading scholar found that in 78 out of 95 nations, other environmental laws were strengthened after the right to a healthful environment gained constitutional status. David R. Boyd, “The Effectiveness of Constitutional Environmental Rights,” Yale UNITAR Workshop, at 6 (Apr. 2013).

¹⁰ See *Benson v. State*, 389 Md. 615 (2005).

¹¹ Md. Code Ann., Nat. Res. § 1-302(d).

¹² Cf. *Montgomery County v. Deibler*, 423 Md. 54, 72 (2011).

¹³ Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary (2022); see also Black’s Law Dictionary (11th ed. 2019) (defining “health” as “the quality, state, or condition of being sound or whole in body, mind, or soul”). See,

Williams v. State, 329 Md. 1, 15, 616 A.2d 1275, 1282 (1992); *Bd. of Educ. of Prince George's County v. Marks-Sloan*, 428 Md. 1 (2012).

¹⁴ Md. Nat. Res. Code § 1-302(d).

¹⁵ While acknowledging the existence of the right, the Maryland has yet to ensure its protection. *See* Russell B. Stevenson Jr., *The Maryland Environmental Policy Act: Resurrecting a Tool for Environmental Protection* 45 *Envtl. L. Rep.* 10,074, 10,076 (2015) (“Notwithstanding [this] clear mandate that state agencies take environmental considerations seriously in carrying out their missions, its provisions have remained essentially dormant since it was adopted in 1973.”).

¹⁶ *See, e.g.*, Md. State Personnel & Pensions Code § 2-302(a); *Montgomery v. ECI*, 835 A.2d 169, 377 Md. 615, at 181 (Md. 2003).

¹⁷ *Specter Motor Serv. v. Walsh*, 139 F.2d 809, 823 (2d Cir. 1943) (Hand, J., dissenting).

¹⁸ Stockholm Declaration on the Human Environment, Principle 1 (1972) (emphasis added).

¹⁹ *See* Erin Daly & James R. May, “Environmental Dignity Rights,” in *THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW* (2017).

²⁰ Md. Nat. Res. Code § 1-302(b).

²¹ *See* Sen. Gaylord Nelson, *BEYOND EARTH DAY: FULFILLING THE PROMISE* (2002).

²² U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, “Sustainability and the ROE,” EPA’s Report on the Environment (ROE) available at <https://www.epa.gov/report-environment/sustainability-and-roe> (last visited Feb. 19, 2022). The term “sustainable” appears repeatedly in Maryland statutes. *E.g.*, Md. Pub. Util. Code § 21-104(a)(2)(ii); Md. State Fin. & Proc. Code §§ 3-602.1(a)(2)(ii), 5A-303(a)(16); *see also* Exec. Order 13,154, § 19(l), reprinted at 74 *Fed. Reg.* 52,117, 52,126 (Oct. 8, 2009) (defining “sustainability” as “to create and maintain conditions, under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, that permit fulfilling the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations”).

²³ Md. Env’t Code § 2-1201. *See also* Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Sixth Assessment Report* (2021).

²⁴ *See Widgeon v. E. Shore Hosp. Ctr.*, 300 Md. 520, 536 (1984). Articles 13, 19, and 40 of the Declaration of Rights use “every” in a similar fashion.

²⁵ The Declaration of Rights protects private citizens and legal entities against government overreach. *See Anderson v. Baker*, 23 Md. 531, 628 (1865). The rights vested in government are conferred in separate parts of the Maryland Constitution. Courts in other jurisdictions have interpreted rights comparable to that in Article 48, Section A not to extend to governmental entities. *E.g., Robinson Twp. v. Commonwealth*, 83 A.3d 901 (Pa. 2013).

²⁶ Md. Nat. Res. Code § 1-302(d). *See also Bausch & Lomb Inc. v. Utica Mut. Ins. Co.*, 330 Md. 758, 785-86 (1993) (“improper use and exploitation of natural resources represent an invasion of ‘the right of every resident of Maryland to an environment free from pollution’” (quoting Md. Nat. Res. Code § 1-502))

²⁷ *See Koshko v. Haining*, 398 Md. 404, 431 (2007) (“In matters implicating state interference with a fundamental right we generally apply the strict scrutiny standard.”).

²⁸ *See Mont. Env'tl. Info. Ctr. v. Dep't of Env'tl. Quality*, 988 P.2d 1236, 1245-46 (Mont. 1999).

²⁹ New York Const. art. I, § 19 (effective Jan. 1, 2022); May, *Subnational Environmental Constitutionalism*, 38 Pace L. Rev. at 135; Franklin Kury, *THE CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION TO SAVE THE PLANET* 165-77 (Env'tl. Law Inst. 2021).

³⁰ Illinois Const. art. XI, § 2 (effective July 1, 1971), Pennsylvania Const. art. I, § 27 (effective May 18, 1971), Montana Const. art II, § 3 (effective July 1, 1973), Hawaii Const. art. XI, § 9 (effective Jan. 1, 1979), Massachusetts Const. article of amendment XLIX (effective Nov. 7, 1972); New York Const. art. I, § 19 (effective Jan. 1, 2022).

³¹ N.Y. State Bar Ass'n Env'tl. & Energy Law Section, *Report and Recommendations Concerning Environmental Aspects of the New York State Constitution*, 38 Pace L. Rev. 182, 190 (2017).

³² *Id.* at 188-89; *see also* Franklin Kury, *THE CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION TO SAVE THE PLANET* 165-77 (Env'tl. Law Inst. 2021).

³³ *Espina v. Jackson*, 442 Md. 311, 321 n.7 (2015). Courts in other jurisdictions with similar provisions have deemed them self-executing. *See, e.g., Robinson Twp.*, 83 A.3d 901, 964 n.52 (Pa. 2013); *Cty. of Hawaii v. Ala Loop Homeowners*, 235 P.3d 1103, 1129 (Haw. 2010).

³⁴ Md. Code, Gen. Provisions § 1-203 (emphasis added).

³⁵ *See Pa. Env'tl. Def. Found. v. Commonwealth*, 161 A.3d 911, 937 (Pa. 2015) (reaching this conclusion for comparable public-trust provision in Pennsylvania Constitution).

³⁶ *See Firestone Tire & Rubber Co. v. Supervisors of Assessments of Wicomico Cty.*, 275 Md. 349, 352 (1975). *See* Md. Decl. of Rights, art. 6 (“[A]ll persons invested with the Legislative or Executive powers of Government are the Trustees of the Public, and, as such, accountable for their conduct.”); *DiPino v. Davis*, 354 Md. 18, 50-51 (1999).

³⁷ *See* Md. Code, Gen. Provisions § 1-110 (explaining that “including” means “including by way of illustration and not by way of limitation”); *Robinson Twp.*, 83 A.3d at 955.

³⁸ *See Anne Arundel Cty. v. City of Annapolis*, 352 Md. 117, 132-33 (1998).

³⁹ The State is a designated statutory trustee under 42 U.S. Code § 9607(f)(b) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act and 33 U.S.C. § 2706(a)(2) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, responsible for natural resources “belonging to, managed by, controlled by, or appertaining to” the State. and. *See also* 33 U.S.C. § 2706(b)(3) and (c)(2). In addition, the General Assembly previously has recognized that State agencies “are stewards of the air, land, water, living and

historic resources,” Md. Nat. Res. Code § 1-302(c). The General Assembly also has established a charitable trust “to conserve, improve, stimulate, and perpetuate the aesthetic, natural, health and welfare, scenic, and cultural qualities of the environment including, but not limited to land, water, air, wildlife, scenic qualities, open spaces, buildings or any interest therein, and other appurtenances pertaining in any way to the State.” Md. Nat. Res. Code § 3-201(a). But the State’s natural resource trustee authorities and responsibilities are not recognized in Maryland’s Constitution. The time is long overdue to “elevate[] the public trust doctrine to the level of a constitutional mandate.” *In re Water Use Permit Applications*, 9 P.3d 409, 443 (Haw. 2000).

⁴⁰ This language is drawn in significant part from Maryland statutory law. For example, the Maryland Environmental Policy Act, which provides that “the protection, preservation, and enhancement of the State’s diverse environment is necessary for the maintenance of the public health and welfare and the continued viability of the economy of the State and is a matter of the highest public priority.” Md. Nat. Res. Code § 1-302(b). *Id.* § 3-201(a) (requiring Maryland Environmental Trust “to conserve, improve, stimulate, and perpetuate ... the environment”); *id.* § 5-1203 (mandating both “protection” and “preservation” of State wildland areas).

⁴¹ *Bausch & Lomb Inc. v. Utica Mut. Ins. Co.*, 330 Md. 758, 785-86 (1993) (quoting Md. Nat. Res. Code § 1-502).

⁴² *Bureau of Mines v. George’s Creek Coal & Land Co.*, 272 Md. 143, 175 (1974).

⁴³ See James A. Gardner, *State Constitutional Rights as Resistance to National Power: Toward a Functional Theory of State Constitutions*, 91 Geo. L.J. 1003, 1004 (2003).

⁴⁴ See *Massachusetts v. EPA*, 549 U.S. 497, 522-23 (2007); *Robinson Twp.*, 83 A.3d at 645 (finding that public-trust provision of Pennsylvania Constitution “establishes a nascent framework for the Commonwealth to participate affirmatively in the development and enforcement of [environmental] rights”); see also, e.g., *Rhode Island v. Chevron*, No. PC-2018-4716 (R.I. Super. Ct. July 2, 2018) (complaint including public-trust claims, grounded in Art. I, § 17 of the Rhode Island Constitution, filed against major oil companies for climate-change damages).

⁴⁵ Sen. Will Smith, Remarks at Citizen Rally, *supra*.

⁴⁶ Dernbach, *Potential Meanings*, 45 *Envtl. L. Rep.* at 471-72.

⁴⁷ See Robin Kundis Craig, *Adapting to Climate Change: The Potential Role of State Common-Law Public Trust Doctrines*, 34 *Vt. L. Rev.* 781 (2009).

⁴⁸ Jay, A. et al., *IMPACTS, RISKS, AND ADAPTATION IN THE UNITED STATES: FOURTH NATIONAL CLIMATE ASSESSMENT, VOLUME II* (Reidmiller et al. eds.) (2018), Ch. 1 at 36.

⁴⁹ See N.Y. State Bar Ass’n, *Report and Recommendations*, 38 *Pace L. Rev.* at 189 (noting the role of a constitutional amendment in responding to the threats posed by climate change); Barton H. Thompson, Jr., *Constitutionalizing the Environment: The History and Future of Montana’s Environmental Provisions*, 64 *Mont. L. Rev.* 157, 198 (2003) (reasoning that the “normative argument for constitutional

intervention is stronger” with respect to “[e]nvironmental issues that involve future generations, such as ... global climate change”)

⁵⁰ "[T]he General Assembly has recognized that '[g]lobal warming poses a serious threat to the State's future health, well-being, and prosperity[.]' Maryland Code, Environment Article ('EN'), § 2-1201(2)..." cited in *Md. Office of People's Counsel v. Md. Pub. Serv. Comm'n*, 461 Md. 380, 192 A.3d 744 (Md. App. 2018). *See also*, MD Code EN 2-1305 Reporting on greenhouse reduction goal and impacts of climate change by State agencies (Maryland Code (2022 Edition)); COMAR 01.01.2014.14 Strengthening Climate Action in Maryland (Rescinds Executive Order 01.01.2007.07) (2022 Edition); COMAR 26.09.01.03 Incorporation by Reference (2022 Edition) [incorporating IPCC reports by reference].

⁵¹ U.S. Eenvtl. Prot. Agency, CLIMATE CHANGE AND SOCIAL VULNERABILITY IN THE UNITED STATES: A FOCUS ON SIX IMPACTS (2021).

⁵² U.S. Eenvtl. Prot. Agency, TOOLKIT FOR ASSESSING POTENTIAL ALLEGATIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE (2004) (EPA 300-R-04-002).

⁵³ Barry E. Hill, *Bending the Arc Toward Justice*, 37 *Eenvtl. Forum* 50 (2020).

⁵⁴ *See* Barry E. Hill, “Environmental Justice for All Must Be a Human Right Enforceable in U.S. State Constitutions,” in *A BETTER PLANET: BIG IDEAS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE* (Daniel C. Esty, ed.) (2019).

⁵⁵ *Id.* at 190.

NBCardin House testimony 2022 for HB 596.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Cardin

Position: FAV



HB596 Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

Environment and Transportation Committee

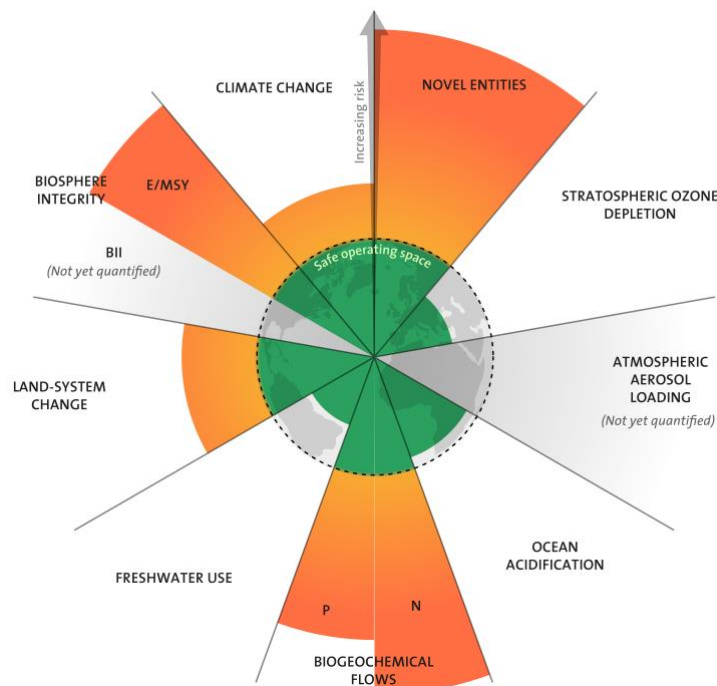
Position: FAVORABLE

Hearing Date 2.23.2022

Dear Chairman Barve, Vice-Chair Stein and Honorable Members of the Committee,

Everything we do, everything we own, every breath we take is a gift of the environment. Each moment of our lives we are beholden to the earth. And to the countless generations of our ancestors who did not despoil the earth for their own use, leaving us with inhospitable land or fouled water or fetid air or an unstable climate. They used the land in a way that benefited them and yet remained fertile and healthy for the generations to come.

As our ancestors did for us, so we must do for our children.



The 9 planetary boundaries we exceed at our peril.¹

¹ <https://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/planetary-boundaries.html>

The 20th century witnessed an unprecedented explosion of human ingenuity and technology. But it also witnessed an abuse of the earth, sometimes unintentionally, sometimes brazenly. In both cases, the earth and its resources were treated as a commodity instead of a living entity that needs to be treated with care. The earth was big and indestructible, we thought, and there to be dug out, burned up and dumped into. As a result, we have endangered the very operating systems that keep this earth habitable for humanity.

We now know what we need to do, technologically and politically. We need new methods and approaches of running a modern society, and we need practical laws that will better guide such behavior and hold government, corporations and all of us responsible for protecting this fragile world of us. That is the work you do every day on this committee.

But we also need something more to underpin and anchor those laws. We need the assertion of a foundational right to a healthful environment to be placed in the bedrock legal covenant of our society, our constitution. We need this right to secure the practical laws you pass, to encourage the consideration and passage of additional laws over time despite the political winds that blow or the emergence of unforeseen developments, to protect those laws from possible future encroachment and to ensure their effective and equitable enforcement.

Other written testimonies to HB596 ably and compellingly make the case for environmental health and justice, and answer practical and legal questions you may have about this amendment. I cannot improve upon them.

I seek to focus here on another reason: rights codified in our constitution are more than laws. They are the mores, the values, the cultural DNA of our society. To place this amendment in our state constitution does more than make environmental health an actionable right, although it does that too. Like freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and more, this amendment helps define who we are, what we hold dear, and what rights - by birth - we possess.

Everyone individually and all of us together have this right and must protect it on behalf of everyone today and those yet to come.

That is what this amendment is designed to do. This right is being recognized around the world, in the United Nations and here in the United States. This amendment is being recognized in Maryland and one day will ultimately be placed in our constitution. Let it be on your watch.

I ask that you vote for this amendment, and send it to the people decide.

Nina Beth Cardin, Director

Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human Rights

Mayor Waters.pdf

Uploaded by: Noah Waters

Position: FAV

Bill: HB 596 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

Committee: House Environment and Transportation Committee

Position: Favorable

Date: February 23, 2022

Dear Chair Barve:

Like the moon and stars, we lack dominion over mother nature. Beyond affairs, organizations, businesses, and people we can vote into submission or appeal by verdict of adjudication, mother nature's authority is sovereign – established by creation – God himself. Intractably joined at the hip, we are intrinsically reliant on her sustenance – drinkable water, breathable air, and nourishing food. As from a mother's womb – our very source of life – over time we must evolve – weaning from the very cradle of existence – it has become our time – our responsibility, entrusted in generations yet born to maintain an environment conducive to life.

We are running out of time while mother nature, in her innocence, responds to stimuli – however man-made or cyclical – being no respecter of persons – cares less about who we are, but how we treat her.

Maryland's proposed Constitutional Environmental Human Rights Amendment supports our human ability to aggrandize mother nature's natural ability to support life. Host to this portion of earth, Maryland can establish legal protection – a vanguard against environmental injustice – and set further example for more states to follow. Egalitarian in principle, whereby both nature and living creation wins – ahead of increasing climate change, rising temperatures, and sea rise, I pray we not require that waters meet our front doorstep before acting. Inordinate burning of fossil fuels and toxic dump sites – among iterative decades of warning and abuse – may we resolve to fix this, not to pass on to our children.

Thank you,

Mayor Noah Waters

Town of Eagle Harbor Maryland

HB0596-FAV-DTMG-2-23-22.pdf

Uploaded by: Olivia Bartlett

Position: FAV



Olivia Bartlett, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Testimony on: HB0596 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 23, 2022

Bill Contact: Delegate Wanika Fisher

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grass-roots organization with more than 3000 members across all districts in Montgomery County as well as a number of nearby jurisdictions. DTMG supports legislation and activities that keep residents healthy and safe in a clean environment and which promote equity across all our diverse communities.

DTMG strongly supports HB0596 because every person has a fundamental right to a healthful and sustainable environment with clean air, water, and land. HB0596, if passed and approved by voters in November, will protect this right and make sure that the state will protect, conserve, and enhance Maryland's natural resources, including its air, lands, waters, wildlife, and ecosystems, for the benefit of us, our kids, our grandkids, and their kids. HB0596 will add our right to a clean environment to the preamble of Maryland's Constitution, along with other rights like freedom of speech.

A Constitutional Amendment is necessary because although the Maryland General Assembly can pass strong environmental legislation, and has done so in the past, it is not guaranteed and sometimes it takes years. Even if a bill passes, it can be vetoed by the Governor and only becomes law if the veto can be overridden.

In addition, the state should be making good decisions about sustaining our environment – but that doesn't always happen. Maryland's environmental laws are not always adequately implemented or enforced by the Maryland Department of the Environment. "Zombie" water permits are a good example. The legislature should not have to pass a law every time a State environmental agency fails to enforce the laws. HB0596 will codify what we expected would already be happening.

The proposed Amendment will give regular people the ability to hold state and local governments accountable for ensuring a healthy environment, which is particularly important for communities long burdened with environmental injustices. Having a Constitutional right to a healthy environment would give Marylander's most impacted another tool for redress - a safety net when other avenues fail or take too long.

The Constitutional Amendment proposed in HB0596 will not break new ground. Pennsylvania and

Montana have had similar language in their constitutions since the 1970's and voters in New York approved environmental rights language last November. Experience has shown that there is not a flood of litigation in states with environmental rights in their Constitutions. Bringing a lawsuit and winning is hard and expensive, as clearly described in *Amity and Prosperity*, a true story about families in Southeastern Pennsylvania being poisoned by fracking. Furthermore, if State and local governments do their jobs to protect the environment, then litigation will be unnecessary.

Let the Voters Decide! Passing HB0596 is not the final step. Constitutional Amendments must be approved by the voters. A recent poll found that 76% of Marylanders surveyed would support the Constitutional Amendment on Environmental Human Rights and 69% said they would vote in favor of it if the election were held today.

Therefore, DTMG strongly supports HB1171 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report on this bill so Maryland voters can decide if they want to add environmental human rights to their Constitution.

Respectfully submitted,

Olivia Bartlett
Co-lead, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team
oliviabartlett@verizon.net
240-751-5599

UULM-MD_FAV_HB596

Uploaded by: Phil Webster

Position: FAV



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

1

Testimony in Support HB 596 - Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights

To: Chairman Barve and the members of the Environment and
Transportation Committee
From: Phil Webster, PhD, Lead Advocate on Climate Change
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland.
Date: February 23, 2022

The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland (UULM-MD) strongly supports **HB 596 Environmental Human Rights Amendment** and urges a FAVORABLE report by the committee.

The UULM-MD is a faith-based advocacy organization based on the Principles of Unitarian Universalism. Two Principles are particularly relevant. The Second Principle, Justice, equity and compassion in human relations and the Seventh Principle, Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Unitarian Universalists believe in justice and equity in human relations. We know that environmental degradation harms marginalized communities with alarming regularity and intensity. We know that the health and dignity of these communities are adversely impacted, with rates of cancer, asthma and early death clearly related to the levels of pollution. We know that these communities, due to the vestiges of years of racial discrimination, do not have resources to engage in lengthy and expensive legislative remedies for the environmental pollution. We know that these communities are not protected by State and Local enforcement of existing laws. And we KNOW this injustice can and must be remediated.

Unitarian Universalists also believe that we should all have respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. Environmental pollution degrades water and air quality, contributes to climate change from the use of fossil fuels impacting everyone. Every person on this earth will suffer from environmental degradation and climate change, the only thing we DON'T KNOW is when and to what extent.

UULM-MD c/o UU Church of Annapolis 333 Dubois Road Annapolis, MD 21401 410-266-8044,

www.uulmmd.org info@uulmmd.org www.facebook.com/uulmmd www.Twitter.com/uulmmd

An Environmental Human Rights Amendment to the Maryland Constitution will provide all Maryland residents access to the Judicial systems, by granting them *standing*, to seek redress of environmental damage. The Amendment will give communities, especially those disproportionately affected, a legal tool to fight unfair burdens, and allow individuals and/or organizations to sue the government for violations. This amendment will have a notable impact on justice and equity in our State.

How can there be justice and equity if one part of society is reaping all the benefits, while another is paying all the costs?

We support this bill and recommend a FAVORABLE report in committee.

Phil Webster, PhD

Lead Advocate, Climate Change UULM-MD

UULM-MD c/o UU Church of Annapolis 333 Dubois Road Annapolis, MD 21401 410-266-8044,

www.uulmmd.org info@uulmmd.org www.facebook.com/uulmmd www.Twitter.com/uulmmd

HB596-MdPHA-FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Raimee Eck

Position: FAV



Mission: To improve public health in Maryland through education and advocacy *Vision:* Healthy Marylanders living in Healthy Communities

HB 596 Constitutional Amendment—Environmental Rights

Hearing Date: 2/23/22

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Position: Favorable

Thank you, Chair Barve, Vice-Chair Stein, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee. We submit this testimony on behalf of the Maryland Public Health Association to express our SUPPORT for HB 596 – the Maryland Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Rights. Our organization is committed to improving population health and reducing health disparities, so we appreciate this bill’s purpose to recognize that all Marylanders deserve the right to live in a healthful environment. We view this bill as an important tool for all Marylanders, as well as public health professionals, to both protect public health and address health disparities.

This bill has been introduced because the burden from environmental pollutants on low and middle-income households, neighborhoods, and communities is disproportionate, costly, and must be addressed. These communities suffer at higher rates from environmental health effects such as asthma, heart disease, nervous system damage, and kidney damage caused by pollution. Children are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of such hazards. To protect the health of residents in lower-income communities, which in turn saves medical costs, requires the promise of environmental safety with legislated environmental human rights. The recognition that Maryland must protect its natural resources such as water, air, and land, while addressing a variety of environmental impacts to our climate is both practical and essential.

There is also a growing abundance of waste and trash in our great state. There has been an increase of pollution across multiple highways, byways, backroads and the Baltimore–Washington Parkway. All of these pollutants contribute to further environmental degradation and related health effects. Our former Governor William Donald Schaeffer’s motto was to make “Maryland Beautiful”. We should carry on his legacy and uphold this standard as a model for our nation. Marylanders deserve to live in an environment free of pollution, free from congestion, and with the chance to thrive in a clean environment. As Kira Simpson states, “We can sit back, do nothing, and watch our planet be destroyed. Or we can take action, become advocates, and start making lifestyle choices which are kinder to people and the planet.”

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and for your support of HB 596 - Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights during this 2022 legislative session as we face the profound and broad impacts that a compromised public health system has had on Marylanders.

The Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA) is a nonprofit, statewide organization of public health professionals dedicated to improving the lives of all Marylanders through education, advocacy, and collaboration. We support public policies consistent with our vision of healthy Marylanders living in healthy, equitable, communities. MdPHA is the state affiliate of the American Public Health Association, a nearly 145-year-old professional organization dedicated to improving population health and reducing the health disparities that plague our state and our nation.

Testimony(HB596) MD Environmental Human Rights Ame

Uploaded by: Rhonda Kranz

Position: FAV

Committee: Environment and Transportation
Testimony on: HB596 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights
Submitting: Rhonda Kranz (5 Montgomery Ave, Takoma Park, MD)
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 23, 2022

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing my testimony in support of HB596 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights. The Amendment would provide an essential right to citizens of Maryland and is long overdue. I urge you in to vote favorably on HB596.

HB596, if passed and approved by voters in November, would enshrine in Maryland's Constitution:

- (A) That each person has a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment, and said right shall not be infringed.
- (B) That the State, as trustee, shall protect, conserve, and enhance Maryland's natural resources, including its air, lands, waters, wildlife, and ecosystems, for the benefit of both present and future generations."

The addition of this amendment to the Declaration of Rights section of the Maryland Constitution would codify our basic right to a healthy and safe environment. This is just as basic as our right to freedom of speech. It would give all citizens the ability to hold state and local governments accountable, which is particularly important for communities long burdened with environmental injustices.

We need this amendment to insure that existing and new environmental laws are implemented and enforced, and that if they are not, changes and redress occur in a timely manner. Maryland has an ongoing problem of lack of enforcement in some areas such as discharge permits. The amendment would give Maryland citizens a tool to address these and other problems without having to rely on new laws or long delays.

The health of Maryland citizens is dependent on the health of our environment. Citizens are impacted by the quality of our air and water, pollution, infrastructure, recreational opportunities, and maintenance of natural areas. We suffer from health problems related to environmental quality, in my case asthma and other respiratory issues. We should have direct ability to insure that our health is a priority.

Finally, passing HB596 does not ask the Environment and Transportation committee to adopt the Constitutional Amendment; it asks you to decide if the voters should be given the right to choose if they want the environment and their health to be a codified priority in the State, and they be given a role in ensuring laws are enforced.

Please vote in favor of HB596 so Marylanders can decide if they want to add environmental human rights to their Constitution.

MDEHRA Rally.pdf

Uploaded by: Riya Sharma

Position: FAV

Good afternoon! My name is Riya Sharma and I am a student at the University of Maryland, College Park. I am the co-president of an environmental justice organization called 17 For Peace and Justice. We students are here today because respect for the environment, and in turn human life, is not reflected in Maryland legislation. We are the generation that has to live and work in the degraded environment left behind by past generations. We should not have to beg for a healthful environment- it should have been handed down to us. We are overwhelmed. We are tired. We are scared. We have had enough.

Maryland is one of the richest states in the country. We have an incredibly high median household income, excellent education systems, and a booming job market. All of this might lead us to believe that we are successful enough and progressive enough, but what good does being one of the richest states do when we cannot even protect the basic human right to a healthful environment?

I'd like to address the tragedy of the Anacostia River. The Anacostia River runs through Prince George's County and into D.C. It is incredibly close to College Park, only a short drive away from us UMD students. It is one of the most polluted rivers in America and contains a mixture of raw sewage, heavy metals, oils, pesticides, and more. These contaminants disproportionately impact those who live along the Anacostia River- primarily black communities. Many of those communities also suffer from high poverty rates. According to a study funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, many local fishermen do not have access to affordable food and resort to catching and eating contaminated fish out of the Anacostia River. Unsurprisingly, the fishermen who are most affected tend to be African-American, Latino, or

Asian. How can we expect to move toward a more socially-just society while we allow environmental injustice?

I'd like to reiterate that all of this is happening about 20 minutes away from our university, where we live and work. This isn't happening in another country, or even another state. This is the reality of Maryland. It is here that I see the Anacostia River left completely unprotected. It is here that I see people in the Curtis Bay and Brooklyn neighborhoods of Baltimore developing lung disease from worsening air pollution. It is here that I see power plants poisoning the Chesapeake Bay, along with all of the aquatic life in it. All of these examples say one thing: that the state government has continuously failed the people it was supposed to protect.

Allowing ecological destruction to occur and sitting idle while innocent people suffer creates an outcome no different than taking a weapon and directly inflicting harm. This is its own form of violence. It is ugly. It is unjust. We must value every individual's right to a healthful environment as much as we value our other American freedoms. The Environmental Human Rights Amendment would be more than a law- it would declare a clean and safe environment to be a constitutional right. It has the power to dramatically improve the quality of life for many. Students like me could hope for a safer, healthier future. Students like me need the Environmental Human Rights Amendment to protect us.

Thank you.

HB 596_Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home_FAV.

Uploaded by: Robert Simon

Position: FAV



Hearing before the House Committee on Environment and Transportation
Maryland General Assembly
February 23, 2022

**Statement of Support (FAVORABLE)
of Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home on
HB 596, Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights**

Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home (MCCH) is a lay-led organization of Catholics from parishes in the three Catholic dioceses in Maryland: the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington. It engages in education about, and advocacy based on, the teachings of the Catholic Church relating to care for creation. MCCH is a voice for the understanding of Catholic social teaching held by a wide array of Maryland Catholics, but should be distinguished from the Maryland Catholic Conference, which represents the public policy interests of the bishops who lead these three dioceses.

MCCH would like to express its strong support for passage of House Bill 596, the Maryland Constitutional Amendment on Environmental Human Rights. We see the Amendment as expressing well our Catholic, interfaith, and human rights values. The language in the Amendment echoes key themes in Catholic social teachings and is in harmony with various elements of Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home* (LS). Its emphasis on an "inalienable right" to a healthy environment fits squarely with Catholic social teaching on the dignity of the human person and our responsibilities for future generations. Its description of "natural resources for the benefit of every person" echoes the Church's teaching that the "gifts of the earth belong to everyone" (LS, p. 71). Likewise, the Amendment addresses the important issue of accountability (LS, p. 61) by ensuring that matters of environmental justice can be legally addressed by all of Maryland's diverse citizenry. This bill is also a legislative initiative that has drawn support from a wide array of faith communities.

Thank you for your consideration of our views and our respectful request for a **favorable** report on House Bill 596.

HB 596_CBF SUPPORT.pdf

Uploaded by: Robin Jessica Clark

Position: FAV



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education

House Bill 596

Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights

Date: February 23, 2022

Position: Support

To: Environment and Transportation Committee

From: Robin Clark, Maryland Staff Attorney

Chesapeake Bay Foundation **SUPPORTS** HB 596 which proposes a constitutional right to the environment that would establish the State as the trustee of Maryland's natural resources. The establishment of a constitutional right to the environment in Maryland could support the works of residents, community groups, and environmental organizations seeking to save the Chesapeake Bay.

The State of Maryland is the trustee of its natural resources

HB 596 states, "The State shall (1) Serve as the trustee of the State's natural resources including the air, land, water, wildlife, and ecosystems of the State and (2) Conserve, protect, and enhance the State's natural resources for the benefit of every person, including present and future generations. (Page 2, lines 10-16)

The State of Maryland is the trustee of its natural resources, including the Chesapeake Bay – and the actions of each branch of State government are critical to its fate. For this reason, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation works closely with the Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environment on topics ranging from farming practices, to fisheries management, to urban runoff controls to protect the national treasure in Maryland's backyard.

Consideration of Environmental Human Rights in Administrative Decisions will help protect environmental resources

The permitting decisions and administrative actions of state agencies are the most frequent and widespread touchpoint of environmental issues with the State. For example, determinations of where to site power plants, how to treat the waste from a new development, and the amount of fertilizer a farm may apply are all decisions that occur at the regulatory level and ultimately have an effect on Maryland's air quality, water quality, and wildlife.

This legislation may create a new lens for State agency decision making by adding a reasonable consideration of the effect of agency actions on the State's role as a trustee of natural resources. Based on similar laws in other states, it is unlikely that the amendment will have a dramatic effect on litigation, but rather update the State's actions to account for the value we now know our natural resources possess.

Reasonableness standards will allow courts to appropriately construe this Amendment

The Constitutional Amendment proposed in HB 596 would prohibit the State or political subdivision to "cause unreasonable diminution of or degradation to the State's Natural resources by action or inaction." The legal construction of reasonable, applied often to common law and statutory law, will allow courts to tailor the application of this Amendment as appropriate to balance the multiple responsibilities of State and local government.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 596.

Maryland Office | Philip Merrill Environmental Center | 6 Herndon Avenue | Annapolis Maryland 21403 | 410 268-8816 | CBF.ORG

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 109,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Bay and its resources.

MOS HB0596 Constitutional Amendment-Environmental

Uploaded by: Robin Todd

Position: FAV



February 18, 2022

HB0596: Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

Position: Support

The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) whole-heartedly supports HB0596: Constitutional Amendment—Environmental Rights. We ask that the House Environment and Transportation Committee issue a favorable report on the bill and move it to the floor of the House of Delegates.

This bill would grant every citizen a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment. It further would make the state a trustee of the state's natural resources, requiring it to protect said resources for the benefit of present and future generations. This amendment would create an enforceable right to a healthful environment, strengthen the state's and local governments' ability to protect natural resources, and would promote environmental justice.

This bill will empower underserved communities' ability to protect themselves from environmental harm. Almost 80% of incinerators in the U.S. are located in marginalized communities, i.e. low-income and/or communities of color.¹ Here in Maryland, the Bresco incinerator threatens the health of communities in Curtis Bay in Baltimore.²

MOS supports this amendment as it will allow us and other bird enthusiasts to hold the state and local governments accountable for protecting the birds and their habitats, that we seek. The birds are a vital and integral part of our functioning ecosystem, but they lack a voice. It is up to us to support them in their struggle to survive and reproduce, and fill their roles in the ecosystem.

Maryland sits in a vital position along one of the four major migration flyways, Maryland, the Atlantic Flyway, and billions of migrating birds pass through our state each migration season. Our State bird, the Baltimore Oriole, is one such migrant that returns yearly to breed and departs in Fall for wintering grounds in Central and South America. Indeed, according to the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership (MBCP), "Maryland (has) features that support an impressive diversity of

¹ Li, Rina, Nearly 80% of US incinerators located in marginalized communities, report reveals, May 23, 2019, <https://www.wastedive.com/news/majority-of-us-incinerators-located-in-marginalized-communities-report-r/555375/>

² Shen, Fern, Bresco incinerator is poisoning families, protesters outside Young's house say, October 11, 2020, <https://www.baltimorebrew.com/2020/10/11/bresco-incinerator-is-poisoning-families-protesters-outside-youngs-house-say/>

ecosystems, habitats, and species. Because of a variety of threats, some 143 species of birds have been recognized as ‘Species of Greatest Conservation Need’’. The MBCP further notes that, “Over 200 species of birds breed in Maryland, more than half of which are considered to be Species of Greatest Conservation Need.” Many species that breed in the state migrate to other areas outside of breeding season. Given the mobility of birds, planning at the landscape level and considering species needs during their full life cycle is important.

The diversity of bird species and their habitats is under increasing threat. Unless concerted efforts are taken in the near future Maryland will lose some of its greatest assets – healthy natural systems and the wide range of birds, plants, and other wildlife that they support. Maryland risks economic impact as well as a decrease in quality of life. An estimated 900,000 residents and non-residents enjoy birding in the state. While Marylanders generated \$483 million from wildlife-watching activities in 2011, the Total Industrial Output (TIO), which includes, direct, indirect, and induced effects, totaled over \$909 million, produced 10,807 full- and part-time jobs, and generated \$88.4 million in state and local tax revenue. Nationally, Americans who watch and feed birds contribute \$41 billion to the nation’s economy every year.³

Birds provide invaluable ecological services in areas of pest control, seed dispersal, and pollination. The immediate threats to their survival and a disruption to our symbiotic relationship with them are matters of great importance for a variety of reasons.

It is for these reasons we support our birds and their habitat, and urge the passage of HB0596: Constitutional Amendment—Environmental Rights.

The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) is a statewide nonprofit organization established in 1945 and devoted to the study and conservation of birds. Currently we have 15 chapters and approximately 1,800 members. Some are scientists and naturalists, but our membership includes people of all ages and all walks of life, from physicists to firefighters, legislators to landscapers. Birding is one of the fastest growing types of outdoor recreation.

Sincerely,

Kurt R. Schwarz
Conservation Chair
MOS
www.mdbirds.org

³ US Fish and Wildlife Service, Economic Impact: Birds, Birdwatching and the U.S. Economy, November 16, 2017, <https://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/bird-watching/valuing-birds.php>

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GHHI Written Testimony - HB596.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Ruth Ann Norton

Position: FAV



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February 21, 2022

Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chairman
House Environment and Transportation Committee
Lowe House Office Building, Room 251
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: **FAVORABLE** – HB596 – Constitutional Amendment

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee:

The Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI) has a long-standing history of advocating for families and children on the important issues of asthma and lead poisoning prevention and developing and delivering prevention resources to improve health and racial equity outcomes for Maryland's children and families. GHHI is dedicated to addressing the social determinants of health and the advancement of racial and health equity through healthy, safe and energy efficient homes. By delivering a standard of excellence in its work, GHHI aims to eradicate the negative health impacts of unhealthy housing and unjust policies for children, seniors, and families to ensure better health, economic and social outcomes for low-income communities of color. GHHI supports HB596 to create a fundamental right in Maryland to a healthy and sustainable environment.

Asthma

The burden of asthma, a chronic disease, greatly contributes to social inequalities in health outcomes and health disparities, which are neither inevitable nor irremediable, especially for children and minorities in Maryland. Determinants of health related to air quality and indoor environments are known to be significant contributing causes of asthma morbidity and exacerbations and disproportionately burden populations, especially children and minorities. Poor outdoor and indoor air quality and housing conditions such as mold, pests and other allergens contribute to asthma episodes for Maryland residents.

25 million Americans have asthma and it has been shown to be the cause of the biggest loss in productivity through school and work absenteeism. Nationally, 14.4 million school days and 14.2 million work days are missed due to asthma episodes. Over 500,000 adults in Maryland have been diagnosed with asthma. Research has shown that race, ethnicity and income are also common risk factors in asthma diagnoses and the impact of asthma episodes. Asthma-related health disparities have disproportionately affected African American residents in Maryland, specifically children. Data available from the Maryland Asthma and Surveillance Report demonstrates that African American asthmatics in Maryland visit the emergency room 5 times

more often than White asthmatics and are hospitalized 2.7 times more often than White asthmatics in Maryland. Many asthma episodes are preventable, yet high rates of asthma related emergency department visits and hospitalizations result in substantial medical costs for the state and its residents – including \$42.1 million annually for asthma related hospitalizations and \$93.million for asthma related emergency department visits.

Lead Poisoning

In 2019, there were 1,526 children with elevated blood levels (EBLs) of 5 µg/dl or higher in Maryland. Lead poisoning from lead in water, lead in paint and contaminated soil contributes to significant brain damage, learning disabilities, speech development problems, attention deficit disorder, and poor school performance that heavily burdens low income communities. Lead poisoning is irreversible and has a significant impact on societal costs including thousands of school age children. Lead poisoning directly contributes to the cycle of learning disabilities, poor school performance, steep school dropout rates and juvenile delinquency that prevent low income children in particular from being able to thrive and which burdens the State through increased special education and criminal justice costs.

Healthy and Stable Communities

Minority populations in Maryland are disproportionately impacted by the unhealthy air and water and hazardous conditions that exist in their homes and communities and are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Maryland needs to advance holistic, comprehensive solutions to improving air and water quality and creating healthy, energy efficient and stable housing that improves health outcomes while reducing the impacts of climate change on low income, communities of color. A constitutional amendment will result in more aggressive polices to mitigate the disproportionate impact of environmental hazards and climate change, and address unhealthy and unstable housing that produce health and social disparities for minority children, families and older adults including rates of lead poisoning, asthma episodes (emergency department visits and hospitalizations), household injury, household income and energy burdens.

Seven states in the United States (Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Montana, New York, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island) have adopted environmental rights as a fundamental right in their state constitutions. Maryland must ensure that our air is safe to breathe and that the water and environment in our communities, schools and homes are free of lead and other contaminants. To improve racial and health equity, we must commit to a safe, healthy and sustainable environment for all Marylanders. We ask for a Favorable report on HB596.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ruth Ann Norton
President and CEO

HB 596 Testimony SG pdf.pdf

Uploaded by: Sarah Grzyb

Position: FAV

February 20th, 2022
House Bill 596
Environment and Transportation Committee
Position: Favorable

Environment and Transportation Committee Members,

I am formally submitting this written testimony in favor of HB 596 to require a constitutional amendment which would protect our fundamental and inalienable right to a healthy environment with access to clean air, water, land, and a stable climate.

Residents of Maryland undeniably deserve to have their rights to a clean and healthy environment protected. **This right was meant to be established under the Maryland Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) which Maryland's General Assembly passed in 1973. However, the act's principle which states every Marylander has the "fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful environment" has yet to be truly enforced.** A constitutional amendment such as HB 596 aims to ensure that Maryland obtains and maintains a healthy environment. Legal protection of our rights to a clean environment is the only way we can be secure in our safety.

I believe that Maryland's state and local governments want Maryland's environment to be as healthy, clean, and beautiful as possible, and passing HB596 would strengthen their ability to protect it. As a coastal state, the well-being of our estuaries, marshes, bays, and other bodies of water are incredibly important. Our state is also very geographically diverse, with both very rural and very urban areas. The natural spaces need to be protected equally in both - particularly in more urban Maryland communities that have been consistently underserved when it comes to environmental protection. **All of these issues affect the health of Maryland's environment and therefore its citizens, but a constitutional right to protect our environment would allow the state and local governments of Maryland to band together and act on the same set of regulations that would keep us safe.**

I am not the only Maryland resident who believes in the importance of this constitutional amendment. **A recent poll indicated that approximately 76% of Maryland's registered voters favor protecting individual rights to a healthful environment in Maryland's state constitution.** There's no time to wait - Maryland residents are eager to pass this amendment and ensure that their rights to clean water, air, and land are protected not only now, but for future generations.

Maryland is known for its rich history. We should let a constitutionally protected environment be a part of this state's legacy too.

Respectfully,

Sarah Grzyb

La Plata Charles County, MD resident
St. Mary's College of Maryland student

NAACP MSC ECJ HB0596 Constitutional Amendment Envi

Uploaded by: Staci Hartwell

Position: FAV



Title | HB0596 Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights
Position | Favorable

February 21, 2022

TESTIMONY

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members,

The NAACP Maryland State Conference is asking your committee to support HB0596, the Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Rights, to codify Marylanders fundamental and inalienable right to a healthy environment with clean air, water, and land, a stable climate, as well as the preservation, protection, and enhancement of the environment.

This Amendment formally recognizes environmental rights as civil rights which enables communities impacted by environmental injustice to seek interventions to help mitigate cumulative environmental impacts and to help remedy and restore us, so we may enjoy a *dignified* human existence. This Amendment is a tool of a *civilized* society.

Race is the number one indicator of where toxic waste and pollution facilities are located, regardless of economic status. As a result, pollution and other environmental hazards are concentrated in communities of color. The Baltimore-Washington metropolitan region has the nation's second worst ozone levels. This pollution is a result of multiple power plants, incineration, and vehicle (CO2) emissions. Many low-wealth communities of color are concentrated around these facilities and roadways. **South Baltimore/Curtis Bay** has more that 200 polluting facilities within a 1-mile radius. In Baltimore City, an area most affected by toxic air, also has the highest rates of death related to air quality IN THE COUNTRY. The City's lung cancer rate is more than 25% above the US rate. **Prince George's County** is home to the state's only sewage sludge incinerator, multiple landfills, and asphalt/aggregate industries, as well as FOUR coal/gas power plants in a 13-mile radius. Breathing chronically polluted air can reduce lung function by 20% and can lead to a higher risk of death from COVID-19. Prince George's County makes up 16% of the state's population but makes up 20% of all COVID-19 related deaths. **Brandywine** has more fossil fuel capacity that 99.9% of the country and it is 67% Black. Sands Road, in **Anne Arundel County**, has been dubbed a "Diesel Death Road" and the area is also plagued with "zombie permits" which allow raw sewage run-off and worse. We need this Amendment as a tool to help remedy a near century of environmental indifference which has endangered the lives and futures of our most vulnerable residents. We cannot continue to pile polluting services in these communities and expect them to thrive.

The natural resources of the State belong to the people, not corporations. The State has the responsibility to protect, preserve, and enhance these resources. I urge you all to pass HB0596, to make sure communities of color are given their *fundamental and inalienable right* to a clean, safe, and beautiful environment and that State entities are held responsible for neglecting, endangering, and harming them though their environment.

Respectfully submitted,

Staci Hartwell, Chair
NAACP Maryland State Conference
Environmental and Climate Justice Committee

ACNM HB 596.pdf

Uploaded by: Suhani Chitalia

Position: FAV



Committee: House Environment and Transportation Committee

Bill Number: HB 596

Title: Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

Hearing Date: February 23, 2022

Position: Support

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) strongly supports *House Bill 596 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights*. The amendment would add the right to a healthful and sustainable environment to the Declaration of Rights of the Maryland State Constitution.

ACNM recognizes the connection between a healthy environment and positive birth outcomes. Studies have shown that poor quality environments are related to negative birth outcomes¹:

- Exposure to air pollution can be related to low birth weight and preterm birth
- Exposure to lead may cause preterm birth, low birth rate, and spontaneous fetal death or miscarriage
- Some pesticides have been linked in human studies with problems including miscarriages, birth defects, and learning or developmental disabilities in children

ACNM also recognizes that often, black and brown communities face the greatest environmental hazards in Maryland. Due to this disparity, it is also seen that environmentally related poor birth outcomes are most often found in black and brown communities.

Maryland should make it a priority to ensure families have a healthy environment to ensure better health outcomes for everyone. We ask for a favorable report on this legislation. If we can provide any further information, please contact Suhani Chitalia at schitalia@policypartners.net.

ⁱ <https://tracking.idph.iowa.gov/People-Community/reproduction-and-birth/Reproductive-Outcomes-and-the-Environment>

B Local Mid-Atlantic MD Amend Enviro Human Rights

Uploaded by: Suhani Chitalia

Position: FAV



Testimony of B Local Mid-Atlantic
February 21, 2022

To: Maryland House Environment & Transportation Committee
In Support of: HB596 Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

On behalf of the more than 100 certified B Corporations and Benefit Corporations in the Mid-Atlantic and dozens of other sustainable businesses in the region that are using business as a force for good, B Local Mid-Atlantic submits our testimony in support of HB596 - Maryland Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Human Rights.

B Corporations and Benefit Corporations are part of a global movement transforming the global economy to benefit all people, communities, and the planet. Currently, there are more than 4,600 independently certified B Corporations spread across the globe. In addition, 55 jurisdictions around the world including Italy, Colombia, France, Peru, Rwanda, Uruguay, Ecuador, British Columbia, and Canada, as well as 44 U.S. states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia (Washington, D.C.) have passed Benefit Corporation legislation and thousands more companies have chosen to establish themselves or re-organize as Benefit Corporations. We take great pride in the fact that Maryland passed the first Benefit Corporation legislation in the world in 2010. Together, these types of businesses are working to address society's most critical environmental, economic and social challenges. B Local Mid-Atlantic represents all of these businesses operating in Maryland, Northern Virginia and the District of Columbia.

We in the Certified B and Benefit Corporation movement recognize that our economy is fueled by the labor, savings and commitment of workers, but the corporate and financial sectors have historically externalized operational costs onto these same workers, their communities, and the environment in which they live. Operating under a doctrine known as shareholder primacy, companies are able to prioritize financial profits — even when those profits are derived from behaviors that create inequality, environmental damage, and social fragmentation.

The far-reaching negative impacts of shareholder primacy is increasingly acknowledged by business and finance leaders around the world. Many are now calling for a shift to corporate governance that prioritizes the well-being of all stakeholders rather than just shareholders. This shift to “stakeholder governance” is helping to ensure that companies are now considering the interest of all of their stakeholders — customers, workers, suppliers, communities, investors, and the environment — in their decision-making.



By guaranteeing that (1) each person, as a matter of human dignity, has a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment, and (2) the state, as the trustee of Maryland's natural resources, including its air, water, lands, wildlife, and ecosystems, shall preserve them for the benefit of current and future generations, HB596 directly aligns with this shift to stakeholder governance and will help to build a society where government and businesses are accountable to both people and the planet.

By elevating the right to a healthy environment to the same level as such fundamental rights as freedoms of the press, religion, and speech, HB596 will provide constitutionally-based protections in addition to those set forth in Maryland's existing environmental laws and regulations. The Amendment also makes explicit the State's trustee role as a steward of our environment and the constitutional obligation to protect this right.

In the face of historical corporate abuse of our environment, a rapidly changing climate, dwindling natural resources, and uncertain government protections for our ecosystems, the world has recognized the need to provide environmental security to all citizens. The Maryland Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Human Rights helps to provide such security by guaranteeing to each Marylander a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment, thereby providing recourse when they are harmed as a result of environmental degradation.

On behalf of the companies on the B Local Mid-Atlantic Steering Committee, listed below, and the hundreds of sustainable businesses in the region that we represent, we offer our full support for HB596 and encourage the Maryland General Assembly to pass this amendment to the Maryland Constitution.

George Chmael II, President and CEO, [Council Fire](#)
Eddie Tuvin, Chief Lending Officer, [FSC First](#)
Adam Roberts, Executive Director, [Bethesda Green](#)
Kristi B. Tisdale, Founder, [BigFoot for Good](#)

and [B Local Mid-Atlantic](#).

Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth.pdf

Uploaded by: Suhani Chitalia

Position: FAV

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Testimony on: HB596

Organization: Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth (DCPG)

Submitting: Susan Olsen, Board Member

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 23, 2022

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony in support of HB596 -- Constitutional Amendment -- Environmental Rights. Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth is an environmental organization located in Dorchester County. We urge you in the strongest terms to vote favorably on HB596.

Many people assume that we already have a right to a clean and healthy environment. Sadly, that is not true in practice. Although in 1973, the MGA enacted the Maryland Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) which states "Each person has a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful environment," it is now all but forgotten. The Maryland Environmental Human Rights Amendment elevates the right recognized in the MEPA to the level of a constitutionally-protected right and hold state agencies responsible for protecting it.

The need for the amendment is plain as made clear by the saga of the Valley Proteins rendering plant in Linkwood, Dorchester County. Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth (DCPG) has been raising concerns about that plant since 2012. Our group determined from water sampling and testing that the Transquaking River was becoming polluted by the plant's wastewater and that sludge was being dumped in the river and on the surrounding land by Valley Proteins, Inc., in violation of its applicable permits.

Our group held numerous meetings with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the company's executives to no avail. The situation grew worse: the surrounding air smelled wretched and, about three or four years ago, we became alarmed that the pollution might be seeping into the regional aquifer, tainting residents' drinking water. We then reached out to Delegate Sheree Sample-Hughes who did a legislative inquiry. Still nothing.

The Maryland Department of the Environment continued to issue "zombie permits," that is permits carried on for years beyond their expiration date, without performing the required updates. Valley Proteins has been working under a permit that expired in 2006.

The last meeting with both MDE and Valley Proteins executives took place at the Linkwood Fire Hall on November 16, 2021. MDE had finally proposed a new permit, after several local nonprofit organizations threatened legal action.

About 100 people were in attendance. Some residents testified that their water tasted "funny." Others said that they frequently could not open their windows because the smell was so bad. One man testified that his dog would not go outside on bad days. The owner of Higgins Mill Pond lost two much loved dogs who had seizures and died two hours after they were allowed to swim in the pond. Listening to all of this, it was hard not to wonder how much their community's health might be affected, not to mention what the impacts might be on water quality, property values and other aspects of the local economy.

A month after the hearing, Matt Pluta of ShoreRivers sent MDE some drone photos showing the Valley Proteins plant illegally discharging polluted wastewater into the Transquaking River in Linkwood. A temporarily assigned staffer at MDE closed the plant. But MDE allowed the plant to reopen after only two days! The company was up and running again by Christmas Eve, apart from a temporary requirement that its wastewater be disposed of elsewhere.

Clearly, any environmental rights we assume we have are not being enforced. That is why we need a Maryland Environmental Human Rights Amendment. We urge a FAVORABLE vote on HB596. Your favorable vote would allow Maryland voters the opportunity to decide if they want to add the Maryland Environmental Rights Amendment to our state's Bill of Rights.

Episcopal testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Suhani Chitalia

Position: FAV



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

SUPPORT

HB 596/SB783

Constitutional Amendment-Environmental Rights
Environment and Transportation Committee

Good afternoon Chair Barve, Vice-Chair Stein, members of the Environment and

Transportation Committee, my name is Linda Boyd and today, I testify on behalf of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland that represents 108 parishes and over 45,000 parishioners stretching from Western Maryland to Calvert County. We support HB 596.

This Amendment would guarantee that every person in Maryland, every child of God, as a matter of basic human dignity, has a fundamental right to a healthy environment. This also requires that the State protect those rights and to put the health of its citizens first. This would assure that every Marylander who suffers from environmental degradation could challenge actions that create an unhealthy environment.

Communities of color and low-income neighborhoods bear the burden of environmental pollution and degradation and the resulting health disparities. In November 2021, the Maryland Episcopal Diocese overwhelmingly passed Resolution 2021-03 that supported the adoption of such an amendment. Caring for the health of our neighbors is a form of loving our neighbors as ourselves. It is a moral issue. that our State is not protecting the health of all of its residents but, rather, putting the interests of industry over the health of its citizens, especially low income and minority citizens. This amendment would legally protect their rights and all Marylanders' rights to live in a healthy environment. We respectfully request a favorable report.

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WWW.EPISCOPALMARYLAND.ORG

HB0596ThomasMooreSm.pdf

Uploaded by: Suhani Chitalia

Position: FAV

1. Today I ask you for a favorable report on the EHRA, HB0596:

I'm Dr. Thomas E Moore, a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union, retired NASA Manager and Project Scientist (CV attached) and resident of Annapolis. I'm active as a consultant for environmental, energy, and transportation causes aimed at sustainability and ending fuel burning and carbon emission to limit global warming, ice melt and sea level rise. Living on the South River, sea level matters to me.

2. We have an implicit right *and* obligation to the environment out of which we were born:

The environment that creates life is self-evidently the birthright and estate of the life it sustains. We must assert a right to enjoy and benefit from our healthful natural environment. We should not allow individuals and corporations to foul or exploit our environment to enrich themselves at our expense, or for any other reason.

3. The state is responsible to voters as stewards and trustees of that environment:

Our Constitution serves to establish and uphold the rights of citizens and provide the framework for law and order, assuring equal rights to all before the law. The obligation, duty and oath of elected officials is to protect the common good, preventing its exploitation to enrich the few at the expense of the many. You are accountable to voters, in turn, to hold exploiters accountable to the government. To do that will require positive action on HB0596.

4. Pollution and sea level rise have been allowed to threaten Maryland and Annapolis:

In the 1980s, we learned that the seemingly harmless carbon dioxide released by burning fuels is warming our entire planet by the greenhouse effect. We verified this by noting the global melting of ice and corresponding raising of sea levels everywhere. Science confirms that we can expect to face a continually increasing existential threat to our infrastructure. Annapolis and the Chesapeake Bay area are rapidly becoming a "low country" like Holland.

5. Annapolis will incur accelerating expenses to postpone a threat we helped to create:

Once a seasonal nuisance, flooding now occurs about 40 days per year, and is expected to become a daily occurrence. Higher mean sea level also increases damage from storms. The City Of Annapolis and the US Naval Academy now require a 5 to 6 foot sea wall to protect the Naval Academy and downtown businesses from severe damage. Both are in jeopardy as important keystones of the city's growth and prosperity, as are many other sites in MD..

6. Your duty to the common good requires submission of HB0956 to the voters:

Polls (MCEHR) show 76% of Maryland voters support this amendment. They recognize it as a necessary step to *limit and establish accountability* for the threat to Annapolis and the state of MD. An attack the root causes will require us to first establish the rights of citizens and the trustee responsibility of the government. **The voters will thank you for fulfilling your duty by submitting HB 0596 to a ballot so they can claim a proper respect for their rights.**

I attach several exhibits and am happy to respond to any questions.

Exhibit 1. City of Annapolis Climate Report

Current values and events: :



Summary of Key Elevations

- Flooding Through Storm Drains – 1.9 feet NAVD88
- Extreme High Tide in March 2018 – 2.7 feet NAVD88
- Protection after Flood Mitigation project – 3.2 feet NAVD88
- Ten Year Storm Elevation – 3.7 feet NAVD88
- Base Flood Elevation (100-Yr Storm) – 5.0 feet NAVD88
- Hurricane Isabel (September 2003) – 6.4 feet NAVD88

Exhibit 2. Recent FEMA flood insurance rate map projects 100 year flood levels in downtown that far exceed current floodplain designations.

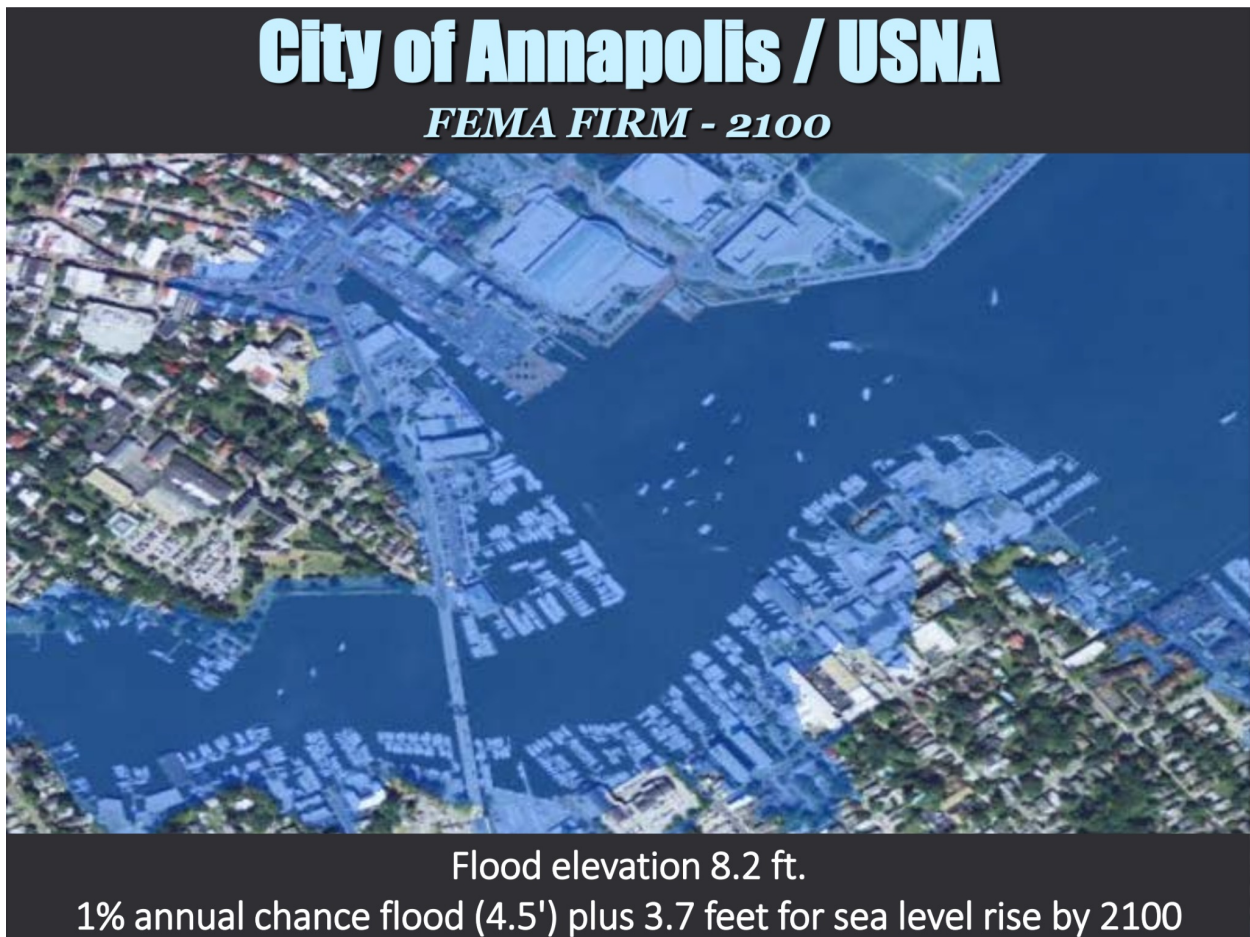


Exhibit 3. A Naval Academy Study of this century's projected sea level rise projects about 1.9 feet of Mean Seal Level (MSL) rise by 2050. A 2022 NOAA Sea Level Report moderated that to about 1.0 foot, but only IF emissions are curbed. If not, it also projects 5-7 feet by 2100.

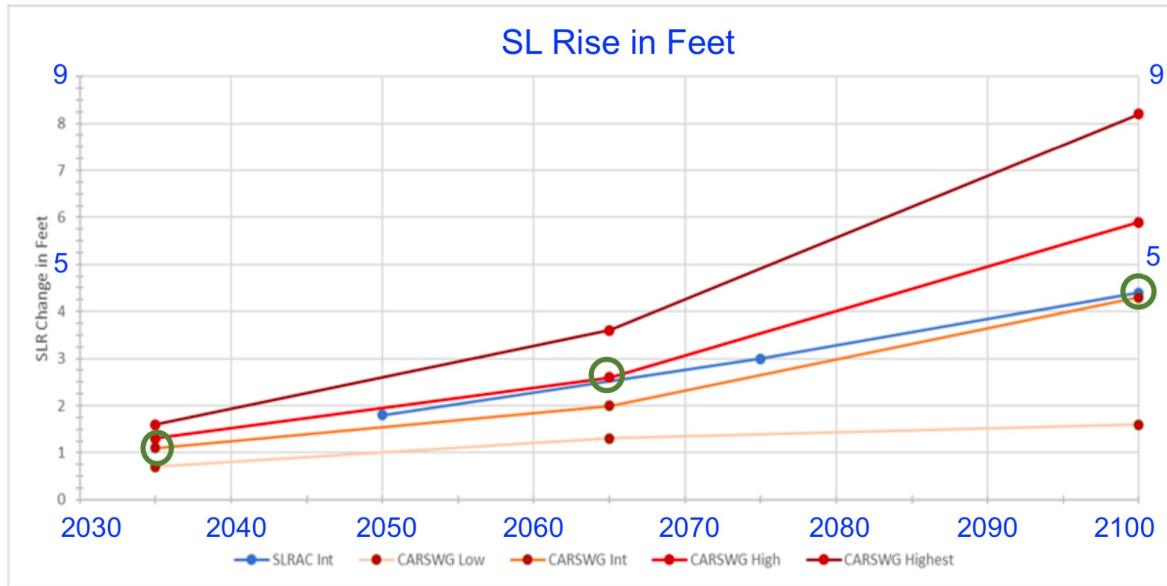
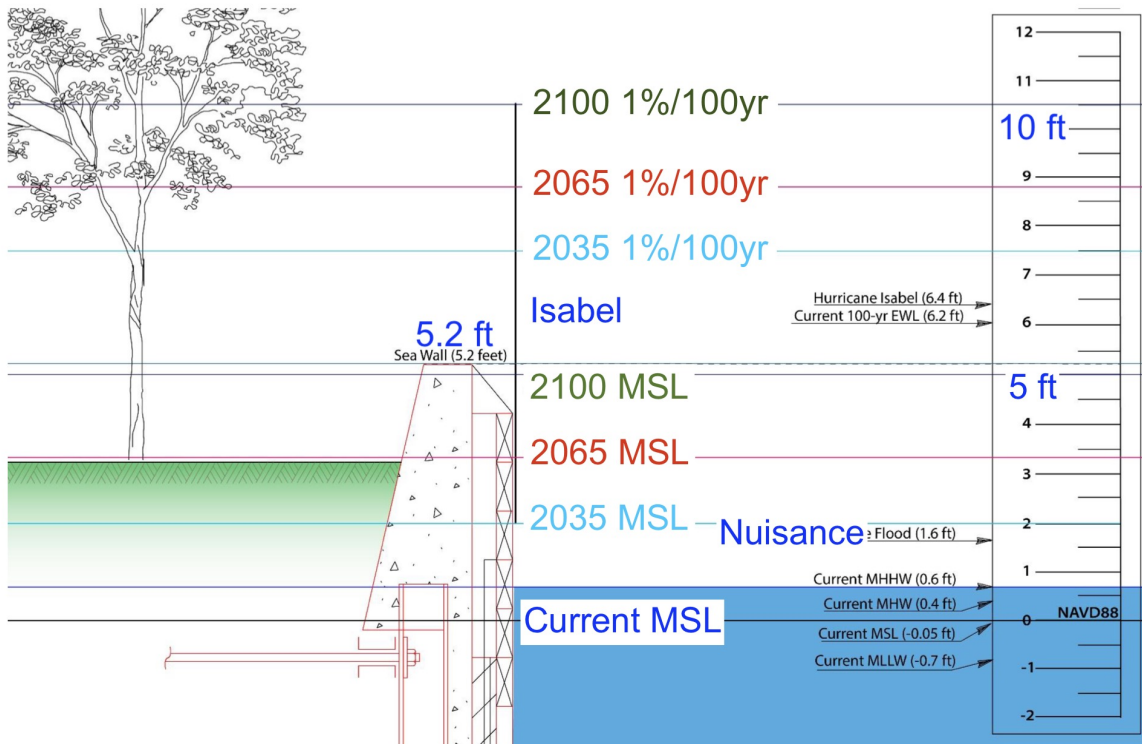


Exhibit 4. The recommended new seawall is 5.2 feet above current MSL Future MSL and 100 year flood levels based on rising MSL are shown at three dates.



Larry Ryan.pdf

Uploaded by: Suhani Chitalia

Position: FAV

To: All Maryland Legislators

From: Lawrence Ryan, Berlin, MD

Testimony advocating for HB0596

The Maryland Environmental Human Rights Amendment

Hearing 2/23/22 1pm

Through this constitutional amendment we seek justice and health for all who are being negatively impacted by the harm we are causing to the land, air and water resources. The businesses that provide us with the food we depend on have a special obligation to protect these resources for both immediate use and the use by generations to come. It is only common sense that we should protect how these resources are being used and promote “best practices” that will guide their use for the benefit of our posterity. Regulations currently exist to guide companies engaged in “for profit” production of food in ways that protect and sustain our commonly held resources. Companies that disregard these regulations must be held accountable for the misuse or degradation of our land, air and water so that the health of these resources **given by God** are sustained for our future. Equal resource access is best protected by the state. In the best interest of **ALL** Individuals and corporations who disdain State management, to achieve a sustainable future for these resources, they must be able to “self-regulate” their practices. Do they? OR, are shortcuts taken to help maximize profit?

Today I advocate for a favorable response to the proposed [Maryland Environmental Human Rights Amendment](#) that intends to provide a future guarantee so that **ALL will equally benefit** from clean air, water, good soil and a stable climate in our future. This bill is not intended to punish any sector of our community or economy or any commercial producer of our food. It is written so it will enhance our community and our economy, and ensure that these resources used for production will be available well into our future with the intent that all will be able to benefit from these gifts from our creator. For the well-being of our children and grandchildren I urge you to pass this proposed amendment to the Maryland Constitution so that all future Marylanders will be able to thrive.

Rev Robert Early Walker.pdf

Uploaded by: Suhani Chitalia

Position: FAV

Environment and Transportation Committee

HB596/SB783: Constitutional Amendment: Environmental Rights

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: 2.23.22

Mr Chairman, Mr Vice Chairman, Honorable members of the committee,

I am the Rev. Dr. Robert E, Walker, Jr., a pastor of Monrovia Charge in the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist church, and Co-Chair of BRIDGE Maryland Inc. BRIDGE uses intentional relationship building, organizing and intensive leadership development in order to strengthen congregations and faith leaders to demonstrate and advance justice in the world.

I am also a former Watershed Stewart in Anne Arundel County.

I am here to ask you to support and vote for HB596 and to get your colleagues in the Senate to support and vote SB783. For those of you who believe in God and read the Bible you know that God has given humankind the responsibility of taking care of God's creation, this marvelous gift from the Creator we call earth so that generations upon generations will have a beautiful place to live, have their families without the worry of global warming, polluted waters, polluted air, bigger storms, droughts all the things that we are experiencing today.

As a watershed steward we were taught the importance of taking care of the water ways of Maryland. I love to fish and I am hesitant to eat fish from our rivers and tributaries of Maryland. The oysters and clams that purify the waters are dying because of the run-off of the pollution from fertilizers and run off from roofs and roads.

These two bills will

- create an enforceable right to a healthful environment
- strengthen state and local governments' ability to protect natural resources

- Strengthen the passage and enforcement of environmental laws
- Promote stronger environmental regulations
- Close the gaps in environmental laws
- Act as a guardrail to prevent the most egregious forms of harm

There are too many places in Black neighborhoods in Maryland that are harming the residents of their communities, trash dumps, incinerators, power plants that cause health problems for the community.

Environmental rights are human rights and we ask you to support HB596 that will amend the Maryland state constitution to protect the right to a healthy environment.

Thank you for your time. We are counting on you to do the right thing.

Rev. Dr. Robert Early Walker, Jr.

UMC.pdf

Uploaded by: Suhani Chitalia

Position: FAV



Baltimore-Washington Conference

The United Methodist Church

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

WWW.BWCUMC.ORG

TEL. 410-309-3400 | 800-492-2525

February 18, 2022

The Baltimore Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church comprises over 600 congregations across the State of Maryland. This year congregations in our Conference voted to overwhelmingly support **HB596, the Environmental Human Rights Amendment entitled "Constitutional Amendment Environmental Rights.**

Our congregations in Maryland do not take this commitment lightly. The United Methodist Social Principles are clear:

All creation is the Lord's, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God's creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. The continued course of action jeopardizes the natural heritage that God has entrusted to all generations. Therefore, let us recognize the responsibility of the church and its members to place a high priority on changes in economic, political, social, and technological lifestyles to support a more ecologically equitable and sustainable world leading to a higher quality of life for all of God's creation. — United Methodist Social Principles, ¶160

HB596 reflects our commonsense, moral commitment and heartfelt, personal conviction. We are to promote robust environmental equity and sustainable resource development for our most vulnerable in Maryland through fair public policies. We do this because we prioritize people who live in violent cycles of poverty, people of color who are targeted by toxic environmental policies that jeopardize their health and ability to flourish, families who aspire to live with greater security and prosperity.

United Methodists across Maryland are called to a ministry of reconciliation between God, humankind, and creation. In our civil engagement and alongside frontline communities who suffer from environmental injustices, we participate in God's healing of creation. Through acts of personal, social and civic righteousness, United Methodists model and advocate for a new public lifestyle for God's people and God's planet so that all God's children can share in the goodness of Creation.

We support HB596 and will keep our commitment to generations to come so that all of God's people may thrive.

Rev. Neal Christie
Executive Minister of Connected Engagement
Baltimore Washington Conference
The United Methodist Church
nchristie@umcbwumc.org +1-202-285-4544

11711 EAST MARKET PLACE, FULTON, MD 20759-2594

TRANSFORMED LIVES TRANSFORM LIVES

HB0596ThomasMoore.pdf

Uploaded by: Thomas Earle Moore

Position: FAV

1. Today I ask you for a favorable report on the EHRA, HB0596:

I'm Dr. Thomas E Moore, a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union, retired NASA Manager and Project Scientist (CV attached) and resident of Annapolis. I'm active as a consultant for environmental, energy, and transportation causes aimed at sustainability and ending fuel burning and carbon emission to limit global warming, ice melt and sea level rise. Living on the South River, sea level matters to me.

2. We have an implicit right *and* obligation to the environment out of which we were born:

The environment that creates life is self-evidently the birthright and estate of the life it sustains. We must assert a right to enjoy and benefit from our healthful natural environment. We should not allow individuals and corporations to foul or exploit our environment to enrich themselves at our expense, or for any other reason.

3. The state is responsible to voters as stewards and trustees of that environment:

Our Constitution serves to establish and uphold the rights of citizens and provide the framework for law and order, assuring equal rights to all before the law. The obligation, duty and oath of elected officials is to protect the common good, preventing its exploitation to enrich the few at the expense of the many. You are accountable to voters, in turn, to hold exploiters accountable to the government. To do that will require positive action on HB0596.

4. Pollution and sea level rise have been allowed to threaten Maryland and Annapolis:

In the 1980s, we learned that the seemingly harmless carbon dioxide released by burning fuels is warming our entire planet by the greenhouse effect. We verified this by noting the global melting of ice and corresponding raising of sea levels everywhere. Science confirms that we can expect to face a continually increasing existential threat to our infrastructure. Annapolis and the Chesapeake Bay area are rapidly becoming a "low country" like Holland.

5. Annapolis will incur accelerating expenses to postpone a threat we helped to create:

Once a seasonal nuisance, flooding now occurs about 40 days per year, and is expected to become a daily occurrence. Higher mean sea level also increases damage from storms. The City Of Annapolis and the US Naval Academy now require a 5 to 6 foot sea wall to protect the Naval Academy and downtown businesses from severe damage. Both are in jeopardy as important keystones of the city's growth and prosperity, as are many other sites in MD..

6. Your duty to the common good requires submission of HB0956 to the voters:

Polls (attached) show 76% of Maryland voters support this amendment. They recognize it as a necessary step to *limit and establish accountability* for the threat to Annapolis and the state of MD. An attack the root causes will require us to first establish the rights of citizens and the trustee responsibility of the government. **The voters will thank you for fulfilling your duty by submitting HB 0596 to a ballot so they can claim a proper respect for their rights.**

I attach several exhibits and am happy to respond to any questions.

Exhibit 1. City of Annapolis Climate Report

Current values and events: :



Summary of Key Elevations

- Flooding Through Storm Drains – 1.9 feet NAVD88
- Extreme High Tide in March 2018 – 2.7 feet NAVD88
- Protection after Flood Mitigation project – 3.2 feet NAVD88
- Ten Year Storm Elevation – 3.7 feet NAVD88
- Base Flood Elevation (100-Yr Storm) – 5.0 feet NAVD88
- Hurricane Isabel (September 2003) – 6.4 feet NAVD88

Exhibit 2. Recent FEMA flood insurance rate map projects 100 year flood levels in downtown that far exceed current floodplain designations.

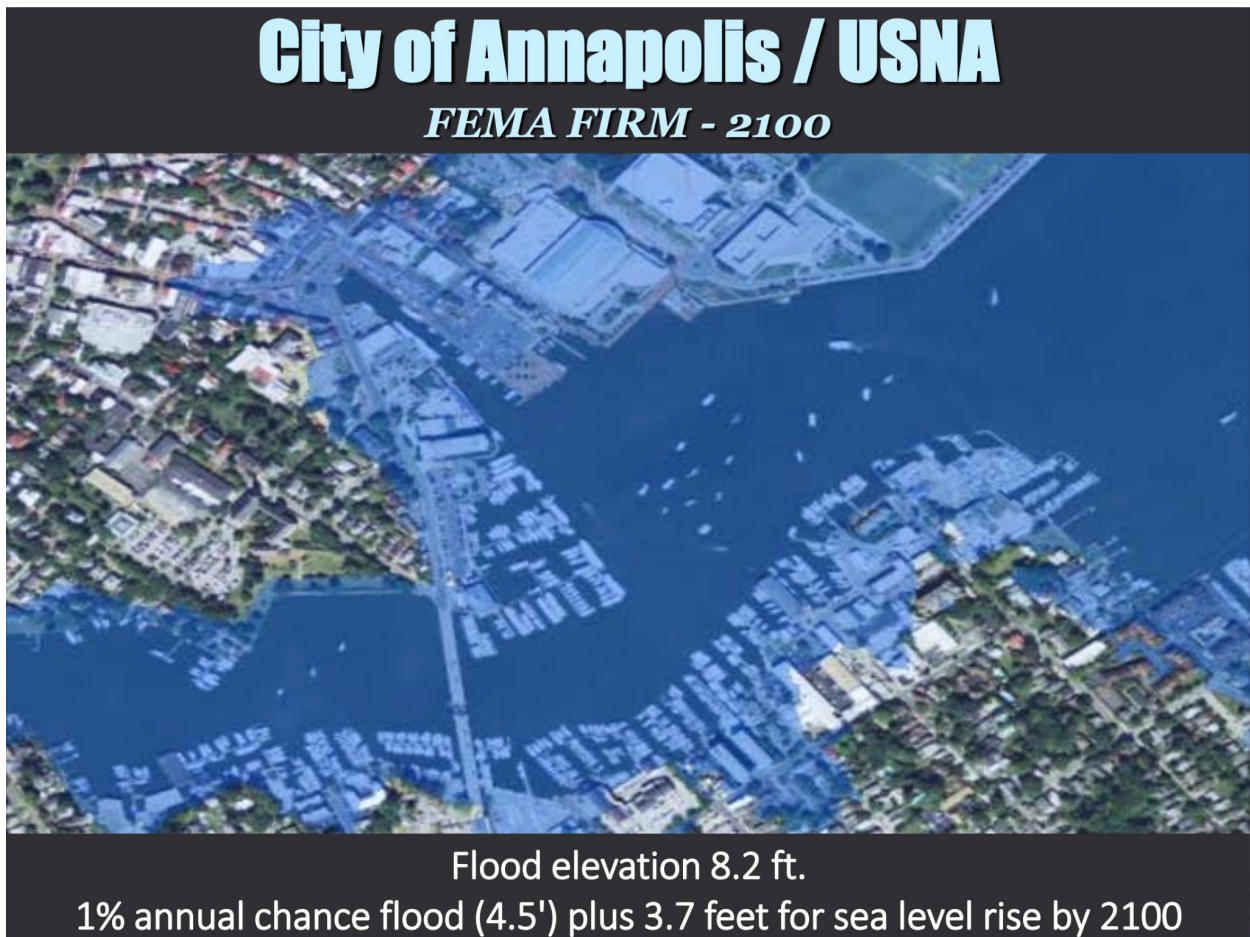


Exhibit 3. A Naval Academy Study of this century's projected sea level rise projects about 1.9 feet of Mean Seal Level (MSL) rise by 2050. A 2022 NOAA Sea Level Report moderated that to about 1.0 foot, but only IF emissions are curbed. If not, it also projects 5-7 feet by 2100.

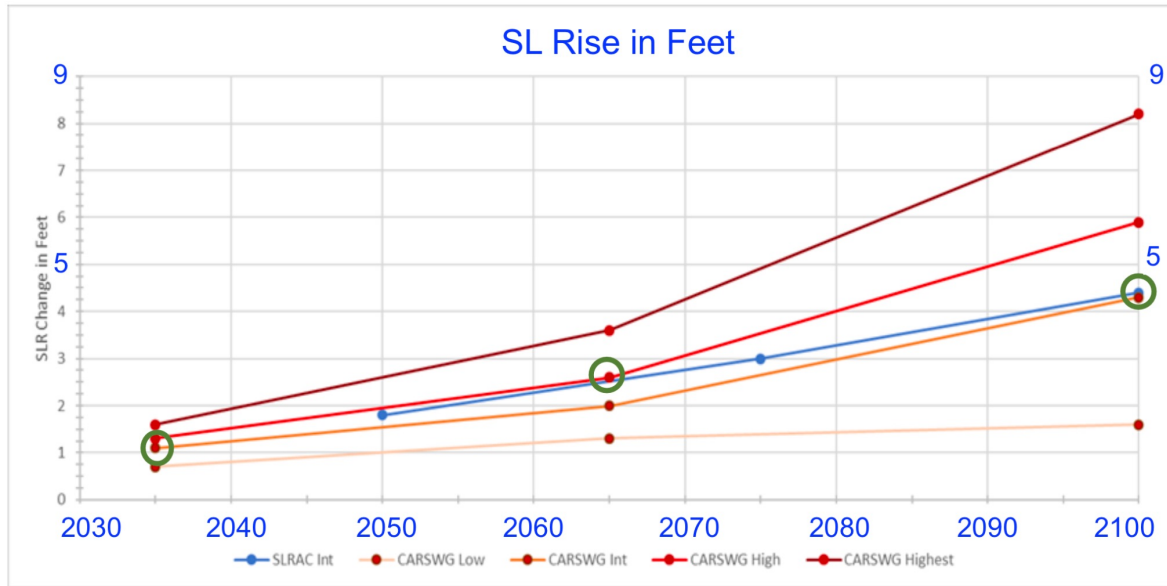


Exhibit 4. The recommended new seawall is 5.2 feet above current MSL Future MSL and 100 year flood levels based on rising MSL are shown at three dates.

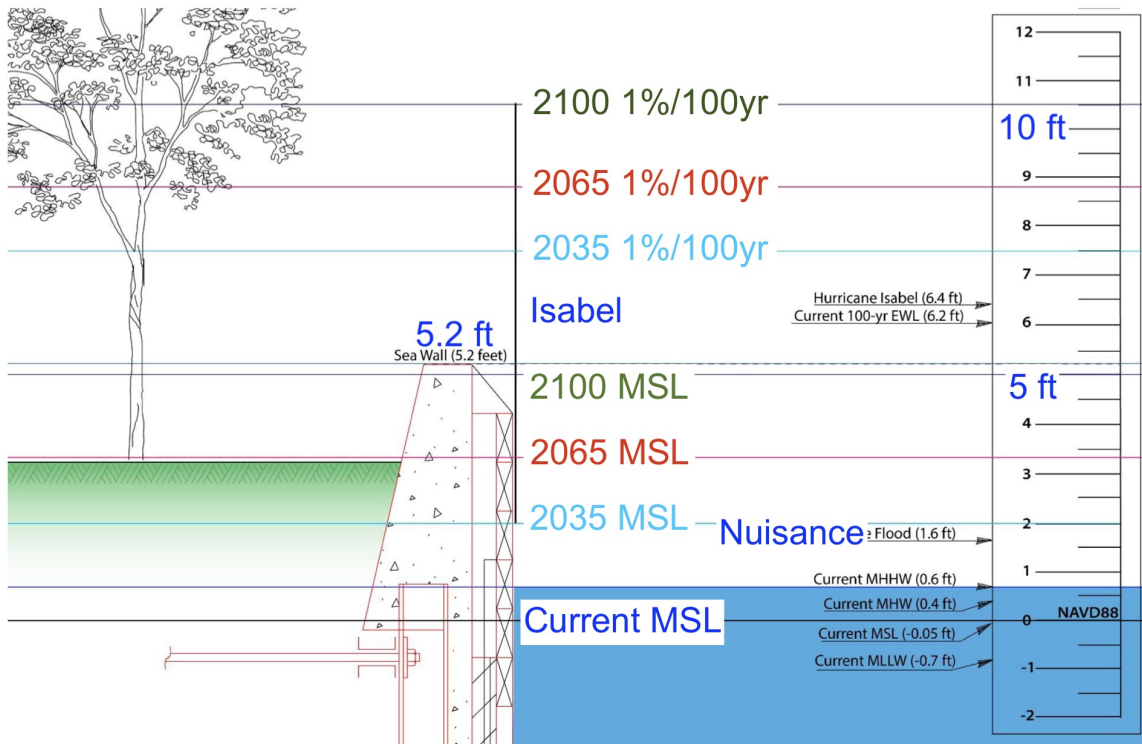
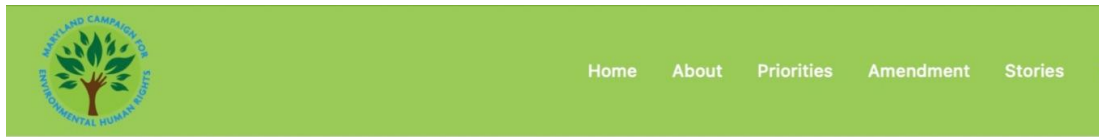


Exhibit 5. Opinion Poll Results



Majority of Maryland Voters Support the Environmental Human Rights Amendment

BY EDITOR • JANUARY 27, 2022 • ENVIRONMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS, ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT, UNCATEGORIZED



ANNAPOLIS, MD: In a recent poll by Opinion Works LLC, 76% of Maryland voters said they favor protecting the right to a healthful environment, and even more importantly, the majority would vote for the proposed amendment if the election happened today.

Maryland Voter Support for Environmental Rights Amendment

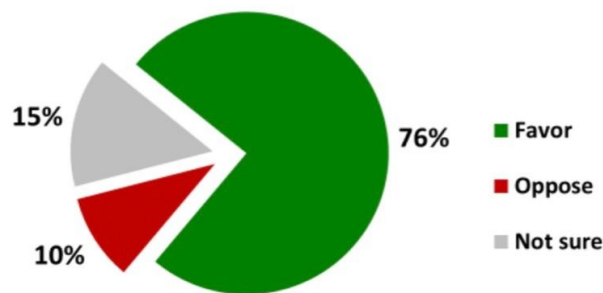
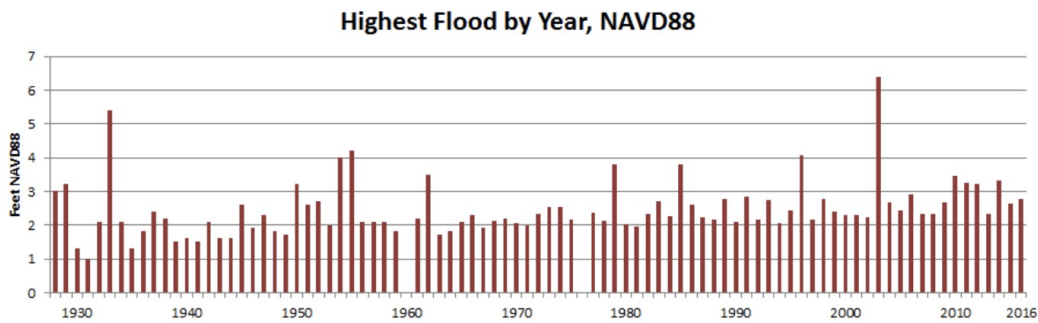
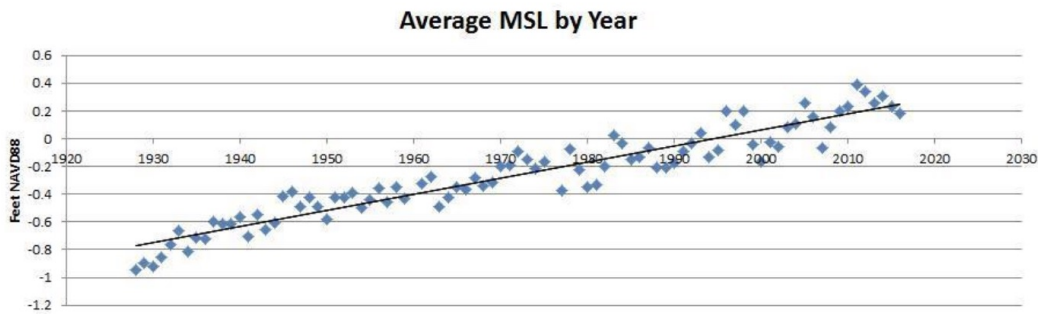


Exhibit 6. Historical data from City of Annapolis CHRMP report April 2018, demonstrating the reality of accelerating mean sea level rise.

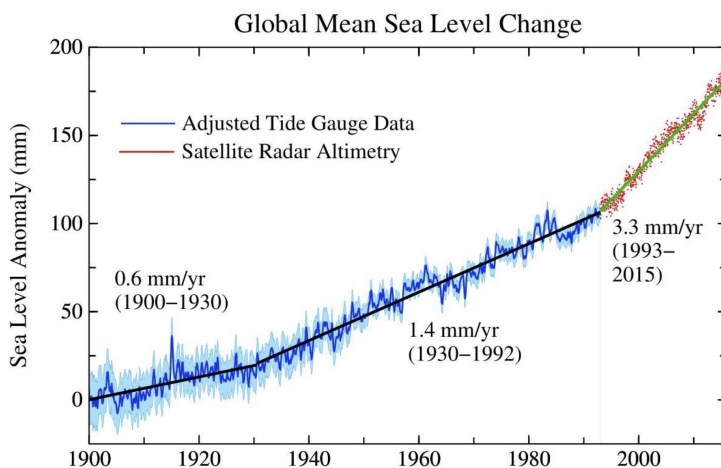


The figure shows the highest observed water in each year since 1928 (except 1960 and 1976). Notice the floods from storm surges in 2003 (6.4 feet, Hurricane Isabel) and 1933 (5.4 feet).



The average or mean sea level (MSL) over the same time period reveals a trend of rising sea level. The trend in sea level rise is clear and relatively consistent over the 20th century as shown in NOAA's historical analysis of sea level rise at Annapolis.

Exhibit 7. The global sea level rise has been **accelerating**. Full scale 200 mm = 0.7 ft



J. Hansen et al., 2016: Ice melt, Sea Level Rise and Superstorms³⁷

Dr. Thomas E. Moore



Dr. Thomas E. Moore

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Curriculum Vitae

Biography

Publications

Brief Bio

Thomas E. Moore worked on the dynamics of the plasma environment at geosynchronous orbit, on some of the first multi-point observations to reveal space weather fronts. He also was active in the observation of plasma and energetic particles above auroral displays from sounding rocket platforms. Dr. Moore joined NASA at Marshall Space Flight Center in 1983 as a member of the science team for the Retarding Ion Mass Spectrometer on the Dynamics Explorer-1 Satellite. He supplied plasma spectrometers for the Topside Probe of the Auroral Zone (TOPAZ) series of sounding rocket payloads, the ARCS series of active experiment payloads, and the SCIFER and CAPER cusp payloads. At MSFC, he became the principal investigator for the Thermal Ion Dynamics Experiment and Plasma Source Instrument for the ISTEP POLAR spacecraft. Dr. Moore joined the Goddard Space Flight Center in 1997, to serve as project scientist for the IMAGE mission, as lead co-investigator for the Low Energy Neutral Atom imager on IMAGE, and to pursue broader interests in heliospheric and planetary plasma heating and outflow. Dr. Moore has published over 250 research reports and other contributions to the refereed literature. He is a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union, having served as awards committee member, section secretary, and program committee member for the Space Physics and Aeronomy section. He served as a member of the Solar Probe science definition team, The Sun Earth Connections Advisory Subcommittee, as a co-chair of the first NASA "Heliophysics" Roadmap Committee, and as study scientist for the Magnetotail Constellation Mission. He is a co-investigator on the Interstellar Boundary Explorer mission, and on the Magnetospheric Multiscale mission, for which he was Sr. Project Scientist until his retirement on 1 Oct. 2019.

Positions/Employment

- 2010 - Present **Sr. Project Scientist (MMS)**
NASA GSFC, Greenbelt MD
- 2009 - Present **Adjunct Professor**
Univ. of MD, College Park MD
- 2006 - 2010 **Deputy Director, Heliophysics Science Division**
NASA GSFC, Greenbelt MD
- 1997 - 2006 **Head, Interplanetary Physics Branch**
NASA GSFC, Greenbelt MD
- 1987 - 1997 **Graduate Faculty, Physics**
Univ. of AL in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL
- 1985 - 1997 **Chief, Space Plasma Physics Branch**
NASA MSFC, Huntsville AL

Education

- B.S. (honors), Physics, University of New Hampshire, 1970
- M.A.T., Education, University of New Hampshire, 1971
- Ph.D., Astrogeophysics, University of Colorado, 1978
- R&D Management, Wharton School, Univ. of PA 2009

Professional Service

Dr. Moore has served on numerous definition teams, review panels and strategic studies, including the Solar Probe Science and Technology Definition Team, the Sun Earth Connection Advisory Subcommittee (SECAS), and the Sun-Earth Connections Roadmap Team (1997, 2000). He co-chaired the first Heliophysics Roadmap Team in 2005-2006. He has been active in the American Geophysical Union as an Awards Committee member, as a Chapman Conference Convener, as a Program Secretary for Space Physics and Aeronomy, and was elected a Fellow of the AGU in 2009. He has received NASA awards for Excellence in Research and Technology, for membership in the Polar, IMAGE, and IBEX development teams, for Outstanding Management of the Interplanetary Physics Branch at NASA Goddard, and the NASA Exceptional Service Medal.

Awards

- NASA Award for Excellence in Research and Technology, NASA MSFC, 1992.
- Group Achievement Award: Polar Mission Thermal Ion Dynamics Experiment team, 1999.
- Outstanding Management Award (First level supervisors): NASA GSFC, 2002.
- Group Achievement Award: IMAGE Mission Low Energy Neutral Atom Imager team, 2001
- Fellow of the American Geophysical Union, 2009.
- NASA Exceptional Service Medal, 2010.

EHRA_Testimony_022321_2.pdf

Uploaded by: Vennela Avula

Position: FAV

February 21, 2021

Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair.
House Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: **SUPPORT** -- HB596 -- CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT - ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Planetary Health Alliance student group at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, we offer this testimony in support of HB596. **We strongly support HB596**, which aims to add two new protections in the Declaration of Rights section of our constitution. First, that each person has the fundamental and unalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment. Second, that the state, as trustee, shall protect, enhance, and conserve Maryland's natural resources on behalf of present and future generations.

Background. Currently, 75% of the countries in the world and 182 out of 193 countries part of the United Nations have adopted a Constitutional right to a clean environment.¹ The United States, as one of the largest and most influential countries, ought to do so as well. Within the United States, 7 states currently have environmental protections as part of their constitutions.² We believe that Maryland, a state deeply affected by environmental justice issues, would benefit from adopting similar environmental protections to serve its most vulnerable populations.

Environmental justice and human health. As future doctors, we believe that this amendment will result in improved population health outcomes and decreased healthcare expenditures. The burdens of environmental degradation have historically fallen on communities of color and low-income communities in our country. Countless studies have shown that these populations are exposed to higher environmental risk, characterized by proximity to hazardous waste sites, exposure to air and water pollution, poor and crowded housing quality, and dangerous work environments.³ Thus, these same populations subsequently experience higher incidences of cardiovascular disease, asthma, cancer risk, and mortality.³

When I, Joyce Cheng, was an undergraduate student at the University of Virginia, I visited a former West Virginia coal town for an environmental summit. A young man, whose family had lived in Appalachia for generations, explained to me how black lung killed his father and grandfather. His family's story drove me to research advanced lung disease the next summer and later investigate the biological mechanisms and epidemiology of black lung for a biology class. I learned how changes in mining techniques have increased the presence of silica in coal dust, exacerbating lung inflammation and fibrosis. I also read about the history of coal towns and learned how fossil fuel companies dominated the economies of mining communities, trapping them in cycles of poverty and poor health, leaving them powerless. This experience led me to realize the intrinsic connections between human health and our environment and how certain populations endure disproportionate negative consequences.

As the world's climate changes, vulnerable communities will be exposed to even higher risks of health harm. Ecological changes will result in increased temperature extremes, natural disasters, wildfires, vector-borne disease, sea level rise, food insecurity, and more.⁴ Baltimore is particularly susceptible to climate change, being barely above sea level; the University of Maryland's Center for Environmental Sciences estimates that sea level will rise up to 1.6 feet in Maryland by 2050.⁵ This is already causing flooding, waterlogged soil, and backed up sewage, disproportionately affecting Baltimore's residents of color. Infrastructure projects also unjustly impact Maryland's Black citizens; for example, the BRESKO Incinerator, a major source of air pollution, is located in a majority Black neighborhood.⁵ The Environmental Integrity Project reports that this incinerator emits more nitrogen oxides, the primary pollutant in smog, per unit of energy than any power plant in Maryland.⁶ Nitrogen oxides are associated with premature death from heart and lung disease.⁶ However, the contract to keep the BRESKO incinerator running was recently extended to 2030, despite pushback from community members. We need the Environmental Human Rights Amendment to prevent further harm to marginalized peoples.

Decreased healthcare costs. Healthcare costs can be directly tied to the health of our environment. Climate change and environmental pollutants lead to increased hospitalizations and emergency room visits, which are especially expensive and resource-consuming. This amendment could reduce healthcare costs by improving the health of our community. Air pollution in Baltimore provides a key example of how this amendment would lead to lessened healthcare costs. Baltimore City's rate of asthma-related hospitalizations are almost 3 times higher than the U.S average and 2 times higher than the average rate for Maryland. Furthermore, emergency room visits due to asthma are exceptionally high, 2.5 times the Maryland average. The estimated hospital costs for asthma have been reported to total up to \$33 million in Baltimore.⁸ Studies from multiple organizations have shown that the Baltimore zip codes with the highest asthma hospitalization rates include areas with high exposure to toxic air pollution. This also coincides with zip codes with the highest percentages of Black and minority populations. Residents of these areas live without the benefits of trees and green spaces, and with the burden of excess pavement and concrete, which creates urban heat islands. Past studies have shown that asthma hospitalizations can be decreased with intervention. In 2009, there was a sharp decline in asthma hospitalization rates (57%) in two Baltimore zip codes where there was a large reduction in pollution from nearby coal-fired power plants.⁷

Impact. The Environmental Human Rights Amendment has the potential to substantially reduce the healthcare costs cited above, among other costs, as it will lead to more proactive prevention of environmental hazards such as air pollution by promoting conservation and regulations. Evidence from states where environmental rights are constitutional suggest that state agencies will make decisions with this amendment in mind, and the amendment will help provide legal support for environmental legislation. Constitutional environmental rights have led to the strengthening of environmental laws in countries around the world, including those in Europe, Africa, and South America.⁹ For example, in Argentina, enacting a constitutional right to a healthy environment stimulated new minimum standard laws on industrial waste and clean water, and provincial laws were amended to incorporate environmental health as a fundamental guiding principle.⁹ This amendment may also prevent the future weakening or rollback of existing environmental policies and improve accountability and enforcement of current laws.^{9,11} In

Pennsylvania, a constitutional provision naming the state a trustee of its natural resources, similar to the proposed language for Maryland's amendment, provided a basis for the Supreme Court to strike down legislation overriding local prohibitions on hydraulic fracturing in *Robinson Township v. Commonwealth*.^{10,11} The Environmental Human Rights Amendment is necessary to empower Maryland's citizens to take legal action to protect their health, and it will give the state the authority to care for its people.

Conclusion. As medical students studying and living in Baltimore, we are concerned for the health of our surrounding communities, some of which face the highest rates of air and water pollution in the state. We believe that adopting the Environmental Human Rights Act is a crucial step in protecting the health and wellbeing of our state's most vulnerable populations.

Respectfully,
Vennela Avula, Medical Student, vavula1@jhmi.edu
Joyce Cheng, Medical Student, jcheng63@jhmi.edu

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Affiliated with:
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
Medical Students for a Sustainable Future

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11. <https://www.ncelenviro.org/app/uploads/2021/10/Green-Amendment-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

HB596_FAV_Carella

Uploaded by: Veronika Carella

Position: FAV

Maryland Children's Environmental Health Coalition

Environment and Transportation Committee
Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Delegate Dana Stein, Vice-Chair
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
phone: 410-841-3990

February 23, 2022 Hearing

HB 596

Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

Support

INTRODUCTION

Maryland Children's Environmental Health Coalition (MD CEHC) is a group of children's advocates working collaboratively toward improving the lives of children in Maryland. Our coalition works to support and advocate for laws that address children's environmental health and well-being. MD CEHC recognizes the urgent need to address the growing issues surrounding the environment where our children live, play, and attend school. We are specifically concerned about protecting children from known hazards, and preventing new hazards, thus allowing our children to reach their full potential as contributing members of society.

Our Coalition **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB 596** for these important reasons. This bill

- addresses positive health attributes in addition to positive environmental attributes
- clearly and correctly defines Maryland's responsibility to be good stewards of our resources
- clearly and correctly defines Maryland's commitment to human rights under Maryland Law

EMPOWERING ALL MARYLANDERS

We thank you for addressing basic human, environmental and civil rights in **HB 596**. We strongly support that this amendment to the Declaration of Rights section of the Maryland Constitution would guarantee that every person, especially our children, as a matter of basic human dignity, has a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful, stable environment. Please codify that the State is trustee of Maryland's natural resources, including its air, lands, waters, wildlife, and ecosystems, for the benefit and enjoyment of both present and future generations. We look to **HB 596** as a vehicle to allow best practices and standards to be implemented via this Constitutional Amendment thus facilitating the State's efforts to in ensuring Health in All Policies (HiAP)¹.

MARYLAND COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN

The General Assembly has taken action to define in statute (Health Article §13–1501 thru §13–1506)² that it recognizes that children in the State face an array of preventable exposures to environmental hazards in their schools, homes, and communities. In certain cases – documented in statute - children are at greater risk than adults for exposure to and possible illness from environmental hazards because children;

- i. Have a decreased ability to detoxify certain substances;
- ii. Have a greater sensitivity to environmental hazards during the stages of development and growth as a result of their immature body organs and tissues and immature immune systems;
- iii. Have different exposure behavior patterns, such as hand-to-mouth behavior, spending a greater amount of time outdoors near hazards, and spending more time on the floor and on the ground where contaminants can concentrate; and
- iv. Take in a greater amount of contaminants due to their eating proportionately more food, breathing proportionately more air, and drinking proportionately more fluids than adults.

PROTECTING CHILDREN

The state is currently lacking basic protective measures to ensure that children do not come in contact with known hazardous substances that are currently polluting our air, water and soil – some allowed under existing statute, regulations and policies - which do NOT consider the impact to public health or the environment. We

believe that this Constitutional Amendment would promote standards not only improve our environment, but also protect our air, water and soil for future generations.

Maryland has a responsibility to our children and future generations to be good stewards of our natural resources, which will help to reduce both asthma, cancer and other health compromises in children and adults. **When we reduce allergies, sensitivities, and negative health impacts, we increase a child's chances of reaching their fullest potential as healthy and productive adults.** This is not only an environmental issue, but a significant public health issue and most definitely a children's health issue and human rights issue.

We support all efforts to protect infants and young children from known hazards which contribute to poor air quality, water, soil and unsafe conditions for Maryland's children. Many of the products used throughout the state contain substances which negatively impact our natural resources, create unsafe conditions, and have the potential for causing harm to growing children. It is prudent and responsible to establish standards to protect all Marylanders, especially children, from coming in contact with known hazards by ensuring they have a constitutional right to such protection.

Maryland parents are also concerned about the health of the watershed including ground water accessed by wells for drinking water in homes and schools. Concern is not only because these are sources of drinking water, but also because these are the waterways where their children live, learn and play. The health effects of such exposures as detailed in the Report by the MDE and Maryland Department of Health (MDH) entitled Maryland Children and the Environment³ are noted in the forward;

"It is well-recognized that the health of children is directly related to the environment generally and to specific environmental factors...Perhaps no single factor is more important to these efforts than reliable, accurate information that enhances the public understanding and supports the development of effective prevention efforts".

HB 596 is about meeting the health and environmental protection needs of all Maryland children. The right to this protection needs to be clearly defined in our Constitution. Maryland as a State should have a primary focus on protection of our residents and our natural resources. This is an important tool in ensuring that protection.

CONCLUSION

Knowledge is power – here the power to protect children and their environment. Parents would be able to know that their child's air, water, and soil is cleaned and safe. Our hope is that this Constitutional Amendment will be adopted and that all, residents and public servants, will opt-in, for the sake of our future: our children. Maryland has the knowledge and expertise to protect our children from known hazards introduced into our environment. We support all efforts to protect the most vulnerable, infants and children, from known hazards, which is consistent with your mission.

We hope that the Committee acts swiftly and favorably on **HB 596**.

¹ Maryland Health in All Policies Workgroup and Final Report to Governor and Legislature accessed February 15, 2022 at URLs <https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/26excom/defunct/html/20healinall.html> website <https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc5300/sc5339/000113/024600/024610/20200396e.pdf> Final Report

² Children's Environmental Health and Protection in Maryland Statute accessed February 18, 2022 at urls: <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Laws/StatuteText?article=ghg§ion=13-1501&enactments=false> thru <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Laws/StatuteText?article=ghg§ion=13-1502&enactments=False&archived=False> <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Laws/StatuteText?article=ghg§ion=13-1503&enactments=False&archived=False> <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Laws/StatuteText?article=ghg§ion=13-1504&enactments=False&archived=False> <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Laws/StatuteText?article=ghg§ion=13-1505&enactments=False&archived=False> <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Laws/StatuteText?article=ghg§ion=13-1506&enactments=False&archived=False>

³ Maryland Children and the Environment; State of Maryland (MDH & MDE);
url: <https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/EH/Shared%20Documents/CEHPAC/Report-2008-FINAL.pdf> accessed 1/30/22

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Uploaded by: Wandra Ashley-Williams

Position: FAV



January 21, 2022

BILL: HB0596
TITLE: Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights
POSITION: SUPPORT
HEARING DATE: February 23, 2022
COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation Committee
SPONSOR: Delegate Kumar Barve

The amendment would ensure that (1) each person, as a matter of human dignity, has a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment; and (2) the state, as the trustee of Maryland’s natural resources, including its air, water, lands, wildlife, and ecosystems, shall preserve them for the benefit of current and future generations.

The state of Maryland recognized that “each person has the fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful environment,” when it passed the Maryland Environmental Policy Act of 1973. Unfortunately, the Act has not been sufficiently effective.

By elevating the right to a healthful environment to the same level as such fundamental rights as freedoms of the press, religion, and speech, the Amendment will provide constitutionally based protections in addition to those set forth in existing environmental laws and regulations. The Amendment also makes explicit the State’s trustee role as a steward of our environment and the constitutional obligation to protect this right.

These principles will strengthen the basis for addressing the cumulative effects of legacy pollution that disproportionately impact many of our minority and low-income communities and will steer Maryland toward true sustainability. They will provide a solid foundation for improved laws, regulations and programs at all levels of government, and the additional scrutiny that comes from constitutional provisions will serve as a guardrail against the most egregious forms of harmful action, protecting all Marylanders, now and in future generations.

We ask that you support and pass the proposed Maryland Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Human Rights in 2022. Our communities, especially those that are marginalized, our children, our grandchildren, and future generations need us to act now.

For these reasons and more, Climate XChange urges a FAVORABLE REPORT on HB0596.

Respectfully submitted,

Wandra Ashley-Williams
Regional Director
Climate XChange Maryland
410-914-8011

HB596 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Wanika Fisher

Position: FAV

WANIKA B. FISHER, ESQ.
Legislative District 47B
Prince George's County

Assistant Majority Leader

Judiciary Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 23, 2022

Honorable Chairman, Delegate Kumar P. Barve
Vice Chair, Dana Stein
Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee
Re: HB- 596 - Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights

I am pleased to reintroduce HB596. The purpose of this bill is to establish rights articulated in the Maryland Environmental Policy Act (Chapter 702, Acts of 1973) in an amendment to the State's Constitution. The proposed amendment grants each person the inalienable right to a healthy environment, and awards the state as trustee of its natural and historical resources for current and future generations. I think it is important to formally recognize environmental rights as a civil right in our constitution; as environmental injustice causes our most vulnerable groups considerable trepidation. Low-income communities and communities of color are disproportionately subjected to environmental pollution. The State of Maryland will benefit greatly from this bill as it increases equity in decision-making and enables communities impacted by environmental injustice to seek court intervention.

This measure further incentivizes decisive and thoughtful development in a way that protects resources communities depend on. Extended studies indicate amendments of this genre can be used as a tool by local governments to stimulate favorable development within their boundaries. Marylanders have the right to continue this conversation on the ballot. It is our responsibility as elected representatives to provide residents with the opportunity to do so. Please join me in protecting our communities and please give a **favorable** report on House Bill 596.

Sincerely,

Wanika B. Fisher

Wanika B. Fisher Esq.

Maryland State Delegate – District 47B

HB 596_UNF_MML.pdf

Uploaded by: Angelica Bailey

Position: UNF



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 23, 2022

Committee: House Appropriations

Bill: _____ HB 596 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

Position: Oppose

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League opposes House Bill 596. This bill proposes an amendment to the Maryland Constitution establishing the right of every person to a healthful and sustainable environment that may not be infringed; authorizing the State as the trustee of our state natural resources including air, land, water, wildlife, and ecosystems; and charging the State with conserving, protecting, and enhancing the State's natural resources for everyone's benefit.

While we appreciate the intent behind a statewide value of environmental protection, a constitutional amendment is overreaching and unnecessary, and could be expensive for local governments. Existing laws on the federal, state, and local levels already provide legal avenues for environmental protection. Under the Environmental Standing Act, the Attorney General, a local government, or any person may pursue legal action for mandamus or relief against the State or an agency for its failure to perform a duty decreed in statute or regulation. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is authorized to bring both criminal and civil suits for statutory and regulatory violations. Local governments are also authorized to bring civil suits for statutory and regulatory violations. Existing local, state, and federal statute law is more than adequate to address land use and environmental conflicts.

Furthermore, the League is concerned that the actions of municipal governing bodies, planning commissions, boards of zoning appeals, and historic district commissions will be more apt to be questioned in a judicial setting. This measure establishes a new cause of action, resulting in more individuals or entities seeking judicial review of land use and environmental actions of a legislative body and/or an increase in the length of time and

resources needed to address individual cases. Municipal finances could be significantly impacted as early as FY 2023.

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League opposes HB 595 and respectfully requests an unfavorable committee report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scott A. Hancock

Angelica Bailey

Bill Jorch

Justin Fiore

Executive Director

Director, Government Relations

Director, Research and Policy Analysis

Manager, Government Relations

MFA HB596 Opposition.pdf

Uploaded by: Beth Hill

Position: UNF



Maryland Forests Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 332

Linkwood, MD 21835

410-463-1755

February 21, 2022

The Honorable Kumar Barve, Chair
The Honorable Dana Stein, Vice-Chair
Maryland Environment & Transportation Committee
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB596- Constitutional Amendment- Environmental Rights

Dear Chairman Barve, Vice-Chair Stein, and Members of the Committee,

The Maryland Forests Association (MFA) opposes the passage of HB596

Maryland Forests Association, Inc. (MFA) is Maryland's voice for forest, wildlife, and natural resource management. As a non-profit 501 c(3) membership-driven organization established in 1976, we represent the entire forest community statewide. Our membership includes private landowners, foresters, recreational groups, and industry stakeholders. We are a conservation-minded group that wants to see forests remain forests. Our industry and goals are often misunderstood and confused with land clearing and land-use change. A recent study by the Harry Hughes Center for Agroecology showed that many Marylanders do not understand forest management and the benefits it provides to both the environment and the economy.

Our laws protect environmental values through a complex yet comprehensive system of statutes, regulations, zoning ordinances, tort and liability requirements, permits, planning, and public scrutiny. This allows citizens to challenge public and private actions which they may feel illegally or unfairly impinge their rights. Enforcing one's environmental rights may be a cumbersome process but it does work while still allowing for a robust local and national economy. However, an unrestricted constitutional right to "a healthful and sustainable environment" potentially creates a situation where one's right is in the eye of the beholder and ignores the system of laws that refines those rights for the general population. It would likely provide each individual with unquestioned standing to challenge any action they deem to be outside the realm of "healthy and sustainable", regardless of whether that action is fully within the limits of the law. It will lead to legal mayhem and override the careful framework of laws and other measures which currently provide environmental protection.

One other state comes to mind as having a similar constitutional measure. The state of Montana's constitution guarantees, "the right to a clean and healthful environment and the rights of pursuing life's basic necessities, enjoying and defending their lives and liberties, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and seeking their safety, health, and happiness in all lawful ways. In enjoying these rights, all persons recognize corresponding responsibilities." Notice the qualification and this right is enjoyed "in all lawful ways". This is an important qualifier because it preserves those laws which, actually, manifest how this constitutional right is carried out. That is an important distinction and it is clearly missing in this proposed constitutional amendment.

As proposed HB596 could have negative impacts on forest health, forest landowners, and the forest products industry. For these reasons we respectfully ask for an unfavorable report for HB596.

Feel free to contact me via email at beth@mdforests.org with any questions or concerns

Sincerely,

Elizabeth D. Hill
Executive Director Maryland Forests Association

Opposition of HB 596 - Constitutional Amendment -

Uploaded by: Colby Ferguson

Position: UNF



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

February 23, 2022

To: House Environment & Transportation Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Opposition of HB 596 - Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony opposing HB 596. This bill proposes an amendment to the Maryland Constitution, contingent on a referendum, to establish that every person has the right to a certain clean and healthy environment. The bill elaborates that a clean environment is all of the following: clean air, pure water, ecosystems that sustain Maryland's natural resources, which include that waters of the state, air, flora, fauna, climate, and public lands, the preservation of the natural, healthful, scenic, and historic values of the environment, and states that Maryland's natural resources are the common property of every person.

This will give citizens in Maryland standing to intervene on any state application process if they believe it interferes with any of those clean environment definitions mentioned above. Some agriculture examples would include, CAFO's, irrigation, hemp, new buildings, composting, commercial fishing, and aquaculture permits.

MDFB Policy: We strongly support responsible and workable actions designed to permit and protect the privilege and rights of farmers, commercial fisherman, and aquaculturalists, to produce without undue or unreasonable restrictions, regulations, or legislation. We support actions to ensure that farmers are protected from liability and nuisance suits when carrying out normal production practices.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU RESPECTFULLY OPPOSES HB 596

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colby Ferguson". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396

HB0596-ET_MACo_OPP.pdf

Uploaded by: Dominic Butchko

Position: UNF



House Bill 596

Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Environment and Transportation Committee

Date: February 23, 2022

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **OPPOSES** HB 596. The bill creates a new and vaguely defined constitutional right and an expansive new class of litigants with broad standing rights to litigate or intervene. HB 596 would amend the Maryland Constitution to create a new environmental right under the Declaration of Rights for any “person,” a dramatic departure from decades of practice.

This newly fashioned right would provide an opportunity for virtually anyone to litigate over “...the air, land, water, wildlife, and ecosystems...” of Maryland. The amendment would make the State both, “...the trustee of the state’s natural resources...” and charge the State with, “conserving(ing), protect(ing), and enhance(ing) the state’s natural resources for the benefit of any person, including present and future generations.”

This language is both vague and overbroad. It could be argued that many basic, essential services provided by a local government could unreasonably degrade natural resources, including: transportation, water and sewer services, emergency management, and planning and zoning. There are already adequate legal remedies available to address valid environmental concerns, without creating a new ill-defined, legally enforceable right. Enshrining such indeterminate entitlements into the state constitution invites myriad unintended consequences and unanticipated costs.

Longstanding and well-established environmental standards could be upended by an aberrant court decision, causing major policy changes and costs for local governments. Furthermore, the bill would empower any person to enforce or intervene in any case involving a right created by the bill, against any public party. This upsets Maryland’s own well considered standing requirements that have been developed over decades by the Maryland General Assembly and the Judiciary.

HB 596 would create a new vaguely defined constitutional right that grants broad standing to bring litigation against any party, resulting in a potentially significant increase in costs due to additional litigation over virtually any project or action. Accordingly, MACo requests the Committee give HB 596 an **UNFAVORABLE** report.

2022 HB 596 Environmental Rights.pdf

Uploaded by: Holly Porter

Position: UNF



Educate. Advocate. Innovate.

Date: February 21, 2022
To: Members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee
From: Holly Porter, Executive Director
Re: HB 596 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights - **OPPOSE**

Delmarva Chicken Association (DCA) the 1,600-member trade association representing the meat-chicken growers, processing companies and allied business members on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, the Eastern Shore of Virginia, and Delaware opposes HB 596 and urges an unfavorable committee report.

HB 596 has the appearance of being a bill that any resident of Maryland would want – “the fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment.” And no one understands that want more than farmers who are often coined as the “first environmentalists.” Farmers make their living off the land and water that quite often they also live on, and clean water and air are important to them as well.

No Say in Healthy Environment – Not True

Proponents of the bill have stated that without this constitutional amendment, the laws of Maryland do not protect our rights as citizens to a clean air, clean water and a healthy environment.¹ And that’s simply not true.

Farmers are already under a lot of laws, regulations and permits to operate their small business, especially chicken growers. To build a chicken farm, the farmer must first follow the local planning and zoning guidelines which have been established by the county through a very public Comprehensive Planning Process.

Then the farmer will be required to obtain a general discharge permit for concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO). This permit and the Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan that is required is written in a way that there is **no discharge** from a chicken farm. Not only has the general permitted had a public comment period, but a member of the public with standing may also comment on the individual farmers permit and Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan. These permits already take months to obtain, with a public participation process that has caused farmers even years in delay from receiving the permit. Usually those who participate in the public process provide very little substantive input to the permit that is being issued, but it does create stress to the farmer, a small business owner.

Then the farmer will be required to obtain a stormwater permit – again another regulation that was promulgated and allowed for public comments. These permits are an additional measure to assure that no nutrients leave the farm.

¹ Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human Rights – www.mdehr.org



Educate. Advocate. Innovate.

Will Not Increase Lawsuits – Not True

Proponents of this bill have also stated that the constitutional amendment will not increase lawsuits, however they believe it is a “legal tool for both the people and government to use.”²

The chicken community has already been threatened by a lawsuit just 10 years ago with the *Waterkeeper Alliance, Inc. vs. Alan Hudson*, an initiative led by the Assateague Coastal Trust. This mistaken identity of a pile of litter resulted in three years of litigation, millions of dollars in legal fees and mental stress on a young farm family.

In 2019, a number of environmental groups, including Chesapeake Legal Alliance, Center for Progressive Reform, Environmental Action Center, Environmental Integrity Project and more received \$3.5 million over 42 months from the Town Creek Foundation for the purposes “to launch a 5-year legal enforcement campaign to hold government and industry accountable for compliance with the Clean Water Act and the Chesapeake Bay TMDL.”³ In addition, the Assateague Coastal Trust (ACT) received another \$2.5 million over four years with the deliverables of “communities on the Eastern Shore will have benefited from a healthier environment and an enhanced ability to exercise their legal rights.”⁴ Currently ACT is working with the Chesapeake Legal Alliance to bring legal action on the Maryland Department of the Environment claiming that MDE’s CAFO permit needed to regulate air emissions.

In a July 22, 2021 blog posted on the Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human Rights website titled *CAFOs, Environmental and Public Health, and the EHR Amendment*, the author states “If the EHRA was in place, residents who live in the same airshed and watershed with the CAFOs and whose land, water and health were being harmed by these CAFOs could invoke the violation of their rights to a healthful environment and hold the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) accountable for not regulating CAFOs emissions of air pollutants that is harming their health. An EHRA fills the **legal gaps**, allowing Marylanders to seek redress on a violation of the right to a healthful environment even if there is not a granular specific law that the pollutant is violating.”⁵

Chicken farmers do not have foundations granting them funds for legal fees. Chicken farmers and agriculture relies on science-based, data driven laws and regulations to guide them, not emotions and assumptions.

Bill Only Targets Polluters – Not True

Proponents would say that the only people that should be worried about this bill are polluters. However this bill is extremely broad in scope with no definitions of what is a healthful or sustainable environment.

² Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human Rights – www.mdehr.org

³ <https://towncreekfdn.org/recent-grants/2019-grants/>

⁴ <https://towncreekfdn.org/recent-grants/2019-grants/>

⁵ <https://mdehr.org/cafos-environmental-and-public-health-and-the-ehr-amendment/>



Educate. Advocate. Innovate.

In a November 2021 *Maryland Matters* article, Monica Brooks, the founder of Concerned Citizens Against Industrial CAFOs, discussed how this amendment would have helped in defeating a poultry farm from being built. The farm had not even broken ground, so there was no way it was causing harm to the environment. Yet the article says “the amendment could have served as an extra layer of protection, by sending a message to polluters that a clean environment is a priority for the state, Brooks said.”⁶ This is building an assumption that a chicken farm is a polluter. With no science or factual information.

If HB 596 were to pass, then the chicken community would anticipate even more frivolous public participation in permitting process, perhaps even from those that have very little standing or even living in the area where the chicken farms are located. We would also anticipate nuisance lawsuits that could jeopardize the livelihood of a grower and his/her family.

To be clear, DCA also believes that every citizen deserves a clean environment – our chicken community are citizens as well. But we do not believe this bill would protect that right.

We urge an **unfavorable** vote on HB 896.

Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at porter@dcachicken.com or 302-222-4069 or Nick Manis, Manis Canning & Associates, 410-263-7882.

⁶ www.marylandmatters.org/2021/11/29/supporters-launch-a-renewed-push-for-environmental-human-rights-amendment/

ErnieAdkinsHB596Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Holly Porter

Position: UNF

Date: February 21, 2022
To: Members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee
From: Ernie Adkins, Chicken Grower
Re: HB 596 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights - **OPPOSE**

As you are aware, I received my first flock, 23 April 2019. Although that was a huge milestone in my life, I had just closed two exhaustive chapters prior to beginning the one I live today.

Let's begin by saying after I came back from Iraq in 2006, I wanted to become a farmer, a poultry farmer to be exact. At that time, 2006, the moratorium on new poultry production facilities had been lifted along with an immense number of new regulations implemented. To be honest, I didn't have a clue where to begin. I found a piece of land in Mardela Springs, approached the integrator and received their approval, then the process began to pick up speed. NRCS, MDE, MDA, Wicomico County, and an agent from US Army Corp of Engineers arrived for a meeting on site and gave a preliminary "thumbs up". Then came the official meeting and no one knew where to go from there, as I was the first application since lifting the moratorium. The government, the integrators, and myself were all perfectly clueless. It was at this meeting that NRCS required me to receive a set of plans from a certified engineer. Sounds reasonable until you filter it with, I had never built a dog house before, so where do I begin? I was overwhelmed to say the least not knowing where or what to do and no one guiding the process. Eventually I received my quotes for engineering, \$300,000.00 which ultimately halted the deal.

Fast forward to 2016 and I began the process again, this time in Parsonsburg. Many had gone after me, so now the governmental agencies had familiarity with the processes and now could better assist with pointing me in the right direction. Here is how I proceeded:

1. MDA contacted after site selection and began evaluating the following:
 - a. Initial wetlands overlay to predict potential issues with development
 - b. PDA (Tax Ditch) overlay
 - c. Floodplains
 - d. Historical sites
 - e. Waters of the State evaluation for CAFO/MAFO
 - f. Soil study
2. Place property under contract
 - a. Pay for engineering (\$30,000)
 - b. Wetlands delineation (\$20,000)
 - c. Perc testing for home site
3. Once the preliminary evaluations had been completed with positive indicators:
 - a. CAFO/MAFO application
 - i. Notice of intent - published
 - ii. Public hearings period
 - iii. Public comments period
 - b. Building permit application
 - c. NPDES permit application (Storm water management system)
 - i. Published for public comments
 - d. Wetlands permitting
 - i. Army Corp of Engineers required approval

- ii. MDE required approval
- e. Groundwater withdraw permit application
 - i. Letters sent to all adjoining property owners to notify of intent
 - ii. Public comment period

I was fortunate enough not to have received any public comments as this would have only lengthened the process. This entire process took exactly 365 days to receive my CAFO permit from the time the property was placed under contract until I executed and paid for the property. I was not willing to purchase a property I could not receive the necessary permitting for. This period of time was exhaustive with extreme oversight to ensure, prior to the commencement of building, the project would not have a negative impact on the environment. **You see, we really are not a chicken farm but rather a storm water management system that happens to grow chickens.**

Now, like previously stated, we close the permitting chapter and open the building chapter of this saga. During this time, if the paperwork shuffle and re-examination of examinations of plans was not draining enough, now the real fun begins.

It all starts with a website so you can obtain your “green card” certifying you are knowledgeable but ultimately responsible for anything that goes wrong with the construction phase of your project, and I was required to have one so I complied. Allow me to be clear, I was no more knowledgeable after passing this test than I was 45 minutes prior. However, I did check the box, as required. In all actuality, I was counting on the professionals to know what was required of them and by the State since this is what they do every day. My thought processes were along these lines; ***I know the doctor is going to remove my appendix and I can research that all I want but I probably should not attempt this at home, or anywhere else.***

After the online training comes a pre-con (pre-construction meeting) where all of the government agents, contractors, and myself have a clearing of the air of what is to take place and all fully understand how that will be achieved in a compliant manner. At every phase of construction, we would have numerous inspections conducted by MDE and MDA. Their jobs were to ensure compliance and penalize the project/me for non-compliance. There were thousands of photographs and reports generated during this time, log books kept, self-certifying inspections that had to be completed and inspected by the inspectors. In field counseling on suggested or required improvements. The oversight was so intense and innumerable I am not sure how we ever completed the project. Additionally, we received onsite training, from MDE, that dirt/sand going into the water that was leaving the job site (discharge) was considered pollution. That took some getting used to. We had to purchase filter bags for dewatering operations which would allow us to discharge off of the site. I never knew such things existed. Once towards the end of construction and about to begin the operational phase of the project, we were subjected to more inspections, more oversight, and more certifications.

To say we were micro-managed would to say we were on vacation. It was more equivalent to what I would think working on a chain-gang would have been with a guy on the horse with his shotgun. During every meeting, from the first to the last, we were ALWAYS reminded we could be fined and/or shutdown of which, neither could I afford.

To further regulate the poultry industry, in my opinion, is unimaginable. How and what would you do next? Shut it down? To me, it felt as though we were always a step away from the State taking away our dreams. It was not an enjoyable experience.

Now, I would like to say who I am. I am Ernest Adkins. I am a combat veteran of three wars and a 1st generation farmer who is in his fifties. I represent 1.3% of the population that feeds 100%. I am scared for our farming industries due to the lack of young people entering it.

Continuing to over-regulate an overly regulated industry is clear pathway to dependency as a State and potentially a Nation.

For these reasons, I oppose HB 596.

HB596 - Constitutional Amendment - Environmental R

Uploaded by: Jane Redicker

Position: UNF



OUR MISSION:

Working to enhance the economic prosperity of greater Silver Spring through robust promotion of our member businesses and unrelenting advocacy on their behalf.

**HB596 – Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights
Environment and Transportation Committee
February 23, 2022
UNFAVORABLE**

On behalf of the Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce, representing 400 member organizations, including very small businesses with fewer than ten employees and several nonprofits, in the greater Silver Spring area of Montgomery County, I write to express our opposition to HB596 – Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights.

While HB596 may seem like a “feel good” bill that would be supported by everyone, we are concerned that it has broad ramifications which legislators may have ignored.

Of course, “The State must (1) serve as the trustee of the State’s natural resources, including the air, land, water, wildlife, and ecosystems of the State and (2) conserve, protect, and enhance the State’s natural resources for the benefit of every person, including present and future generations.” But does the State really have control over everything in the air, land, and water in our community? Is that even possible? The recent pandemic should be evidence that neither the State, nor any human being can “control” what is in our air. Could the State have guaranteed that the air through we breathed the coronavirus was “healthful”? Had the COVID-19 pandemic been a real biological warfare agent, could that State have assured that every person had a healthful and sustainable environment?

Sure, these examples may seem a bit extreme, and not exactly what legislators proposing this bill are considering. But they do illustrate the point made in the fiscal analysis.

“Assuming ratification by the voters, the bill may result in additional litigation [at both the State and local levels, though] the magnitude of any such increase cannot be estimated at this time. To the extent that there is a significant increase in litigation, State expenditures (all fund types) increase beginning as early as FY 2023.”

Further, it may subject small businesses to various lawsuits, justified or not, that will increase costs.

For these reasons, the Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests a **UNFAVORABLE committee report on HB596.**

Jane Redicker

President & CEO

Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce

8601 Georgia Avenue #203

Silver Spring, MD 20910

Office: (301) 565-3777

Mobile: (301) 466-8997

www.gsscc.org

HB596- Constitutional Amendment- Clean Environment

Uploaded by: Kristi Simon

Position: UNF



Central Maryland Chamber
The Center of Intelligent Business

Legislative Position: Unfavorable
House Bill 596
Constitutional Amendment- Environmental Rights
House Environment and Transportation Committee

February 21, 2022

Dear Chairman Wilson and Members of the Committee,

The Central Maryland Chamber of Commerce (CMC) was formed in 2017, a merger of two existing chambers- The Baltimore Washington Corridor Chamber (originally founded in 1948) and the West Anne Arundel County Chamber (originally founded in 1962). The CMC is a regional organization representing approximately 350 businesses in the Central Maryland corridor and exists to be the primary business resource and advocate as the area experiences exponential growth.

The Central Maryland Chamber is writing to oppose HB596.

The intention of HB596 is well meaning, in efforts to protect Maryland residents from pollution. We understand the problem and the desire to ensure our residents have the right to a healthy environment.

Without a measurable outline of what, exactly, violates someone's "fundamental and inalienable rights to a healthful and sustainable environment," this will be wide open for interpretation and invite complaints, costly defense expenses and possible litigation. Businesses, who are making great efforts in limiting greenhouse gas emissions, are expected to abide by something with no standards but they may be held liable for violating the unexplained mandate?

We all want to live in a healthy environment, but the unintended consequences of sweeping mandates like this need to be considered in advance of such a bill, not after.

Covid-19 has decimated the business community, and to implement something that is so difficult to manage right now will put businesses and individuals at risk for unintentional violations for things beyond their control. Let us focus on measurable, reasonable ways to clean up our environment for the health of our residents without opening doors for misinterpretation and litigation.

The Central Maryland Chamber requests that you vote unfavorably on HB596.

MBIA Letter of Opposition HB 596.pdf

Uploaded by: Lori Graf

Position: UNF

February 23, 2022

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Environment & Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251,
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD, 21401

RE: Opposition HB 596 Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights

Dear Chairman Barve:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **HB 596 Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights**. MBIA **Opposes** the Act in its current version.

This bill would create a constitutional amendment establishing a right to a healthy environment. MBIA respectfully opposes this measure on the grounds that it creates a great deal of legal ambiguity. While MBIA agrees that people should live in a healthy environment this amendment would not define what that is leaving environmental policy largely up to court interpretations. MBIAI believes that these definitions should be determined directly by Marylanders through their elected representatives and due to sound policy decisions and not legal interpretations.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee adopt the proposed amendment and give this For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure an unfavorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: Members of the House Environment & Transportation Committee

HB 596 MDCC Constitutional Amendment-Environmental

Uploaded by: Maddy Voytek

Position: UNF



LEGISLATIVE POSITION:

Unfavorable

House Bill 596

Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

House Environment and Transportation Committee

Wednesday, February 23, 2022

Dear Chairman Wilson and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 5,500 members and federated partners working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic health and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

HB 596 proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland to establish an inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment. Maryland businesses take seriously their role and impact in ensuring a sustainable future. Evident in the many greenhouse gas reduction and sustainability plans now common among private industry. However, many of the concerns from last years legislation remain in HB 596.

HB 596 stands to dramatically expand legal standing for environmental related suits despite the private right of action being removed compared to last years legislation. This increase in legal standing would impact almost every facet of modern building operations from land use and development, manufacturing, product development, the transportation of goods, etc. Without a definition to what constitutes a “healthful and sustainable environment,” which would vary greatly on individual preference and circumstance, HB 596 lacks any kind of standard upon which to measure. Without a standard to measure against individuals are free to allege a violation of their constitutional right against almost anything. Further, Maryland’s environmental laws, like all state and federal environmental statutes and regulations, currently protect our State’s natural resources.

The Maryland business community will continue to support a healthful and sustainable environment and we will continue to work alongside State and federal agencies to enforce and adopt laws and regulations that help Maryland secure a better future for everyone. However, HB 596 is not that avenue as it provides individuals a right to bring suit for almost any reason they see fit. As such, The Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests an **unfavorable report** on **HB 596**.

Final Opposition to HB596.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Powell

Position: UNF

GORDON·FEINBLATT^{LLC}
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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February 21, 2022

VIA EMAIL

Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Opposition to HB 596 – Constitutional Amendment –
Environmental Rights

Dear Chairman Barve:

On behalf of the Maryland Builders and NAIOP, I write in opposition to House Bill 596.

1. **Increased Litigation:** This proposed constitutional amendment will result in extensive litigation between private parties and by private parties against the State. As the fiscal note recognizes, "...the bill may increase opportunities for litigation for a person to enforce those [environmental] rights or the State's responsibilities under the bill." The extent of the new litigation cannot be reliably estimated but it might impact "multiple agencies." In addition, "A local government could be party to litigation under the bill, which could have an impact on local expenditures."

Since the bill enacts a constitutional provision, the litigation can override statutes passed by the General Assembly and zoning decisions by local authorities. "Any person" can bring a challenge to forbid the establishment or expansion of a facility that the person alleges is not "healthful" or "sustainable" even if the facility complies with all legal requirements.

2. **Uncertain Scope of Litigation:** The problem with an amendment that authorizes a "healthful and sustainable environment" is that what one person considers healthful and sustainable is not always the same as another. Are existing power plants healthful and sustainable? Are new roads healthful and sustainable? Are livestock farms, healthful and sustainable? Maryland statutes and regulations carefully define what is and is not permissible. The proposed constitutional amendment would overwrite those carefully balanced provisions with a vague standard that preempts all other measures.

3. **The Constitutional Amendment Would Preempt Local Zoning Decisions:** Local authorities must frequently balance the needs of economic development and job creation against localized impacts. Zoning laws are specifically designed to provide that balance and permit necessary development in locations where any harm will be limited and contained. The Amendment, however, would permit litigation against facilities that are in compliance with zoning laws if “any person” argued that the facility was not “sustainable.” For example, a municipality may decide that a landfill must be expanded for the public good. The Amendment would authorize litigation to stop the expansion even if the landfill complied with all zoning and environmental laws if “any person” claimed that the expansion was not “sustainable.”
4. **Almost Unprecedented:** There is no corresponding national provision and only a very few state or local provisions. Proponents will no doubt point to a provision in the Pennsylvania constitution which has different wording. But the Pennsylvania Supreme Court carefully limited the interpretation of that provision in a series of cases starting with *Payne v. Kassab*, 312 A. 2d 263 (Pa. 1976). There is no certainty that the Maryland Court of Appeals would place similar restrictions on a Maryland Amendment. Indeed, recent Pennsylvania cases suggest that the limitations may be loosened there.

The change in Pennsylvania law was gradual as new cases wore away at the Payne doctrine but in the few years since the erosion began in 2017, there have already been thirteen cases that reached the Supreme Court. Still, the crucial test of applying the provision to permits and zoning has not yet occurred. As legal scholars in Pennsylvania have recognized, Pennsylvania’s recent decisions have not yet involved:

“permitting and enforcement work of state and local environmental agencies, nor do they involve the adoption and implementation of local zoning decisions. As a result, much of the law about how [the amendment] applies in these in other situations has yet to be decided. Because of the uniqueness of [the amendment] among states, and the lack of any federal constitutional analogue, there are few other places or courts from which to get interpretative guidance.”¹

Simply put, Pennsylvania is not a good guide to the impact of the proposed amendment and virtually no other example exists. The limited evidence suggests extensive litigation (13 Supreme Court cases in five years) but the crucial challenges have not yet been brought.

¹ Thinking anew about the Environmental Rights Amendment: An Analysis of Recent Commonwealth Court Decisions, John C. Dernbach, Commonwealth Professor of Environmental Law and Sustainability at Widener University Commonwealth Law School, Abstract 3777547, page 149.

5. **Eliminates Federal and State “Standing” Requirements:** As the Fiscal Note recognizes, both Maryland and Federal Law restrict litigation to parties who have “standing.” In other words, no one may bring litigation against the state or a private party unless the person “has a sufficient stake in a controversy.” The Amendment, however, appears to eliminate that requirement. Indeed, it provides that “every person” has a right which they can defend in Court. It is not even clear that the person must be a Maryland citizen but, clearly, there is no requirement that the individual reside or work near the challenged activity.
6. **The Amendment is Vague:** The proposed standard is “a healthful and sustainable environment.” No definition of either term is provided and the definition of sustainable, in particular, could apply to a very wide range of activities. For example, some activists may argue that anything which produces greenhouses gases is not “sustainable.” But almost every activity creates greenhouse gases. All of our transportation, all of our buildings, and all of our factories produce carbon dioxide. All of our livestock farms produce methane. If a suit can be brought to stop any activity that produces CO₂ or methane, then litigation can be used to stop all new activities.

We all support clean air, water, and a healthful environment. That is the reason why the General Assembly and Congress has adopted volumes of environmental laws and the EPA, MDE and DNR have adopted even more volumes of regulations. But those carefully crafted provisions should not be overwritten by a blanket and vague provision and then subject to never ending litigation.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Powell

Michael C. Powell

MCP/MCP

Final ICSC Opposes Maryland HB 596.pdf

Uploaded by: Mickey Papillon

Position: UNF



February 17, 2022

The Honorable Kumar Barve
House Environment and Transportation Committee
Taylor House Office Building, Room 251
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee:

ICSC, representing more than 1,100 members in Maryland including owners, developers, brokers, tenants, economic development officials and others in the marketplaces industry, writes in opposition to HB596/SB783 (Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights).

If enacted, this overly broad legislation would place on the November General Election ballot a state constitutional amendment that, while well-intended, effectively gives every Maryland association, business and citizen legal standing to obstruct or challenge any proposed development project anywhere in the state for almost any reason.

Standing is the legal right to initiate a lawsuit. The primary intent of standing is to ensure that those actually harmed by another party can seek legal redress in court. Thus, the injured party must show he/she has suffered real and remediable harm as a result of someone else's conduct before they can bring a lawsuit. As a practical matter, the threshold of standing helps protect the legal system from frivolous lawsuits that may clog the courts and ensures that attention can be given to legitimate actions.

HB596/SB783 is a sweeping bill that would potentially stop all types of land use/real estate development in the state by granting any citizen the authority to file suit to block or delay such plans. If the legislation is enacted and the state's voters approve the amendment, this sets the stage for endless court proceedings and extraordinary legal costs associated with those actions. The current process in Maryland for environmental litigation is sufficient and fair, allowing projects to move forward or, if necessary, be curtailed for valid reasons.

ICSC and our members in Maryland respectfully urge an unfavorable report on HB 596.

Please feel free to contact me (jhill@icsc.com) or Sushant Sidh (Sushant.sidh@capitol-strategies.com) with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jim Hill
Vice President, State & Local Government Relations
ICSC Office of Global Public Policy

HB0596_UNF_NWRA_Constitutional Amend. - Env. Right

Uploaded by: Pam Kasemeyer

Position: UNF

Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association

a chapter of the

**National
Waste & Recycling
AssociationSM**

Collect. Recycle. Innovate.

TO: The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Members, House Environment and Transportation Committee
The Honorable Wanika Fisher

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: February 23, 2022

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Bill 596 – *Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights*

The Maryland Delaware Solid Waste Association (MDSWA), a chapter of the National Waste and Recycling Association, is a trade association representing the private solid waste industry in the State of Maryland. Its membership includes hauling and collection companies, processing and recycling facilities, transfer stations, and disposal facilities. MDSWA and its members **oppose** House Bill 596.

House Bill 596 proposes a Constitutional Amendment which would establish that every “person” has the fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment and that right may not be infringed. While the language of House Bill 596 is more limited than similar bills proposed in prior Sessions, its implications are not greatly dissimilar to previous versions. The Amendment reflects notable aspirational goals that would appeal to most individuals, however if adopted, the Amendment would likely dramatically expand litigation in Maryland and create ambiguity in Maryland’s current legal standing framework.

Standing means that a party has a sufficient stake in a controversy to be able to obtain judicial resolution of that controversy. Under current Maryland law, to show standing, an individual generally must demonstrate that the person has experienced an adverse effect from the law or action in question and the adverse effect will continue unless the court grants relief. In contrast, this Constitutional Amendment would essentially provide standing to all individuals to intervene in virtually any action given the ambiguity of what constitutes a healthful and sustainable environment and when that right has been infringed.

Given the challenges already faced by local jurisdictions and private sector interests in the development of critical solid waste disposal, processing, and recycling facilities, the enactment of the proposed Constitutional Amendment will create major regulatory uncertainty and litigation risk for both new project development and the expansion or modification of existing facilities. Maryland did a comprehensive review and modification of its standing requirements in 2009. The legislation had the

strong buy-in of both the environmental and business community, given its fair balance of rights and responsibilities.

Maryland has struggled to get its solid waste and recycling infrastructure established, especially for facilities such as landfills and composting facilities. A number of critical workgroups have formed to address the current challenges. Should the uncertainty related to standing that will undoubtedly arise if the ambiguous provisions of the proposed Constitutional Amendment is adopted, it will be virtually impossible to develop essential solid waste management and recycling facilities as they will undoubtedly be challenged by some individual who asserts standing, given the perceived negative impacts of the project. Measures like this Constitutional Amendment will create major regulatory uncertainty and litigation risk not just for the solid waste industry but for any use that affects the environment. MDSWA strongly urges an unfavorable report.

For more information call:

Pamela Metz Kasemeyer

J. Steven Wise

Danna L. Kauffman

410-244-7000

HB 596_MAA_UNF.pdf

Uploaded by: Rachel Clark

Position: UNF

CHAIRMAN:
Rob Scrivener
VICE CHAIRMAN
Brian Russell

MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



SECRETARY:
David Slaughter
TREASURER:
Jeff Graf
PRESIDENT:
G. Marshall Klinefelter

February 23, 2022

Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 596 – UNFAVORABLE – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

Dear Chair Barve and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

The Maryland Asphalt Association (MAA) is comprised of 18 producer members representing more than 47 production facilities, 24 contractor members, 24 consulting engineer firms and 41 other associate members. We proactively work with regulatory agencies to represent the interests of the asphalt industry both in the writing and interpretation of state and federal regulations that may affect our members. We also advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland's multimodal transportation system.

House Bill 596 would amend the Maryland Constitution to establish that every person has the fundamental right to a healthy and sustainable environment that may not be infringed. Our Association doesn't oppose this legislation as a concept – of course we believe that having a safe and healthy environment is essential – but we cannot support the vehicle this bill uses to establish that concept. This opens up everyone, particularly industries like ours, to extensive litigation. This would give any citizen of Maryland standing to bring any suit against really anyone that infringes on his or her right to a "healthy and sustainable environment." The Maryland Department of Environment is already authorized to bring both criminal and civil suits for violations of the Environment Article in the Maryland Code, or any rule, regulation, order or permit adopted. This legislation is amorphous and will not work in practice.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this important issue and we respectfully urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 596.

Thank you,

Marshall Klinefelter
President
Maryland Asphalt Association

HB 596_MTBMA_UNF.pdf

Uploaded by: Rachel Clark

Position: UNF



February 23, 2022

Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair
House Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 596 – UNFAVORABLE – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

Dear Chair Barve and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

The Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association (“MTBMA”) has been and continues to serve as the voice for Maryland’s construction transportation industry since 1932. Our association is comprised of 200 members. MTBMA encourages, develops, and protects the prestige of the transportation construction and materials industry in Maryland by establishing and maintaining respected relationships with federal, state, and local public officials. We proactively work with regulatory agencies and governing bodies to represent the interests of the transportation industry and advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland’s multimodal transportation system.

House Bill 596 would amend the Maryland Constitution to establish that every person has the fundamental right to a healthy and sustainable environment that may not be infringed. Our Association doesn’t oppose this legislation as a concept – of course we believe that having a safe and healthy environment is essential – but we cannot support the vehicle this bill uses to establish that concept. This opens up everyone, particularly industries like ours, to extensive litigation. This would give any citizen of Maryland standing to bring any suit against really anyone that infringes on his or her right to a “healthy and sustainable environment.” The Maryland Department of Environment is already authorized to bring both criminal and civil suits for violations of the Environment Article in the Maryland Code, or any rule, regulation, order or permit adopted. This legislation is amorphous and will not work in practice.

We appreciate you taking the time to address this important issue and we respectfully urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 596.

Thank you,

Michael Sakata
President and CEO
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association

HB596 22 Testimony .pdf

Uploaded by: Theresa Kuhns

Position: UNF



House Bill 596 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

Position: Unfavorable

Maryland REALTORS® has concerns with HB 596 which amends the Maryland Constitution to establish that every person has certain environmental rights. This legislation creates vague “inalienable rights” which courts would have difficulty defining and enforcing. There is no general standard by which to measure if the “rights” are being infringed or upheld. Unfortunately, HB596 essentially grants the courts broad discretion to interpret what the rights mean and creates opportunity for numerous lawsuits which could further delay the hard and controversial development process to approve new housing.

Maryland is the fifth most densely populated state in the country. To meet future population growth, the state and local governments will increasingly turn to infill development which currently is almost always challenged because it impacts individuals living in established communities. This bill significantly expands and does not define the ability or the rights to challenge community developments even if the individual is not a member of that community or is directly impacted by the project given its directive to *conserve*.

While REALTORS® certainly support environmental protection, every housing development project today is subject to numerous federal, state and local laws evaluating the project’s impact on our environment. As a state, Maryland must find balance between expanding housing opportunity and supply and important environmental protections. Creating an opportunity for future development projects including much needed affordable housing to be denied based on “inalienable environmental rights” will only decrease a much-needed housing supply boost and further increase the cost of all housing.

Finally, by giving Maryland the right to serve as the trustee for “land” raises questions about the extent of fee-simple ownership by private entities.

For these reasons, the Maryland REALTORS® recommends an unfavorable report.

**For more information contact bill.castelli@mdrealtor.org, susan.mitchell@mdrealtor.org,
or lisa.may@mdrealtor.org or theresa.kuhns@mdrealtor.org**