



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Delegate Dana Stein, Vice Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)
DATE: 03/23/2022
RE: HB880 Environment - Impact of Actions on Climate, Labor,
and Environmental Justice

The MLLC supports HB880 Environment - Impact of Actions on Climate, Labor, and Environmental Justice

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 HB0880.

Communities of color are disproportionately victimized by environmental hazards and are far more likely to live in areas with heavy pollution. Minorities are more likely to die of environmental causes, and more than half of the people who live close to hazardous waste are minorities. Disproportionate exposure to environmental harms contributes to health disparities in many communities of color and low-income communities. Although Maryland has made meaningful progress in addressing health disparities, significant problems remain.

There are many factors, including lifestyle and access to medical care, that can adversely affect health outcomes and exacerbate symptoms of conditions like asthma. However, environmental factors, such as pollution and the lack of health-promoting infrastructure in many communities, most likely contribute to the health disparities in Maryland. This bill will require certain building entities to evaluate the risk it will have on a community before they place a facility in a certain area. If passed, the bill would allow the potential burden and/or harm of facilities to minority communities to be assessed on the front end and prohibit them from taking action if the assessment highlights the building will have a negative environmental effect on the community. It will ensure This will protect the communities equal access to a clean environment and basic environmental resources based on race.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB0880.