



**SB 783: Maryland Environmental Human Rights Constitutional Amendment
Support**

March 8, 2022

Committee Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am writing today on behalf of the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) in support of SB 783-“Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights”. The National Parks Conservation Association is the only national membership-based organization dedicated to advocacy on behalf of our country’s national parks. NPCA’s mission is to protect and enhance America’s National Park System for present and future generations, a mission we have upheld since NPCA was created by the very first National Park Service Director Stephen Mather in 1919. This letter is submitted on behalf of our approximately 32,000 members and supporters in Maryland, and over 1.6 million members and supporters nationwide. NPCA is fully supportive of the proposed Environmental Human Rights Amendment to the Maryland Constitution, and we hope you will pass this bill out of the Senate so that it can be voted on by the People of Maryland in November.

NPCA believes that every person has the fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment, which includes access to parks and green space, clean water, and clean air. These protections are widely agreed upon state and nationwide; people believe these are fundamental rights. It is time that Maryland adds the right of a healthy environment to the State Constitution. This will require that the State act as trustee to conserve, protect and enhance a healthy and sustainable environment, and it will bolster the State’s authority and responsibility to implement our existing laws and regulations. Most importantly, the Amendment will put Maryland’s environmental health on par with other essential rights.

NPCA urges this committee to pass this constitutional amendment so that the voters of Maryland will have the opportunity to add this amendment to the Maryland Constitution in November.

Thank you,

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