

BALTIMORE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY
People ♦ Planet ♦ Prosperity

March 8, 2022

Senator and Committee Chair William C. Smith, Jr.
Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

RE: **Support** for SB783, Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights

Dear Chair William C. Smith, Jr., and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

We are writing in support of SB783, 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 SB783.

Sincerely,

Miriam Avins
Mia Blom
Co-chairs, Commission on Sustainability