



Chairman Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher 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 the sponsors for their work on this bill. We hope that Maryland will continue this leadership by passing SB 783, 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 policy-making, 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 that we are running out of time to act on these issues. This constitutional amendment would make it easier for us to take the action we so desperately need.

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 SB 783.