

Support SB783 BBP 2022.pdf

Uploaded by: Antonio Dismel

Position: FAV



March 7, 2022

Testimony Supporting SB783

Dear members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,

This letter is in support of SB783, 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

Testimony SB 783 - Environmental Rights JPR UULM-M

Uploaded by: Ashley Egan

Position: FAV



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

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Testimony in Support SB 783 - Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights

To: Senator William C. Smith, Chair and the members of the
Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Phil Webster, PhD, Lead Advocate on Climate Change
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland.

Date: March 9, 2022

The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland (UULM-MD) strongly supports **SB 783 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

Testimony SB 783 - Environmental Rights UULM-MD-UU

Uploaded by: Ashley Egan

Position: FAV



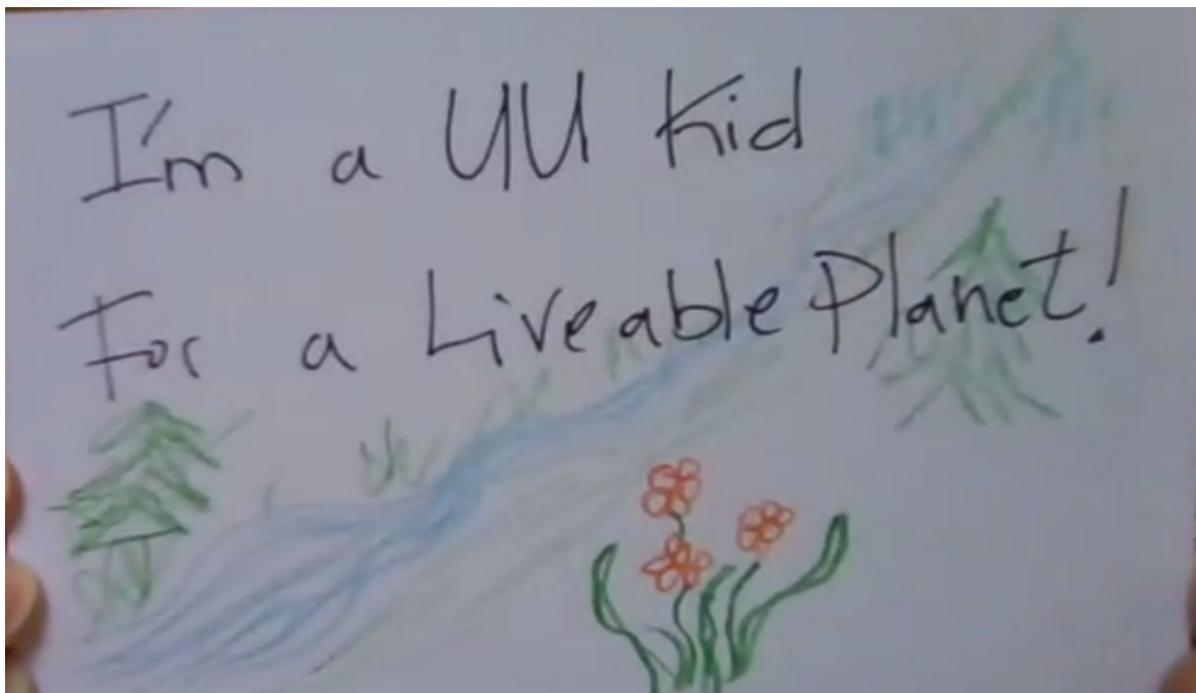
Testimony in Support SB 783 - Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights

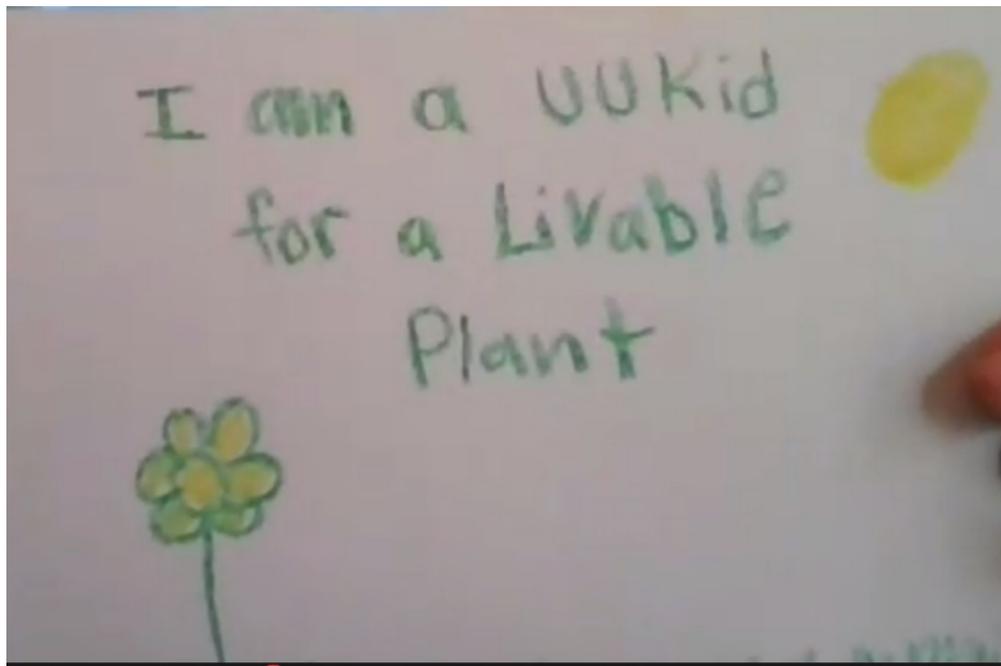
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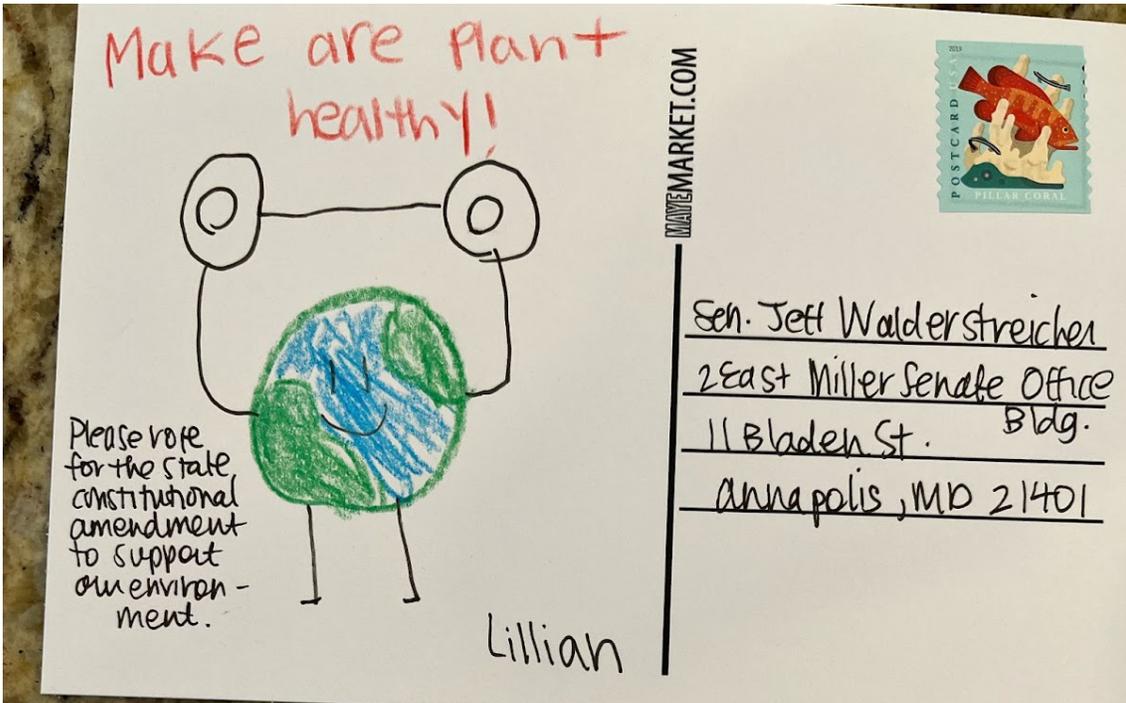
You should have received an email from Rev. Diane Teichert with video testimony from the House committee hearing provided by the UU Congregation in Columbia, you can watch the video here: <https://youtu.be/KS6d7oCGIVk>. We are including postcards from our members in Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church in Bethesda.

We ask you to please keep us on the right and moral path towards a livable climate and a sustainable world by passing this Amendment. .

We owe it to our children, they are watching.

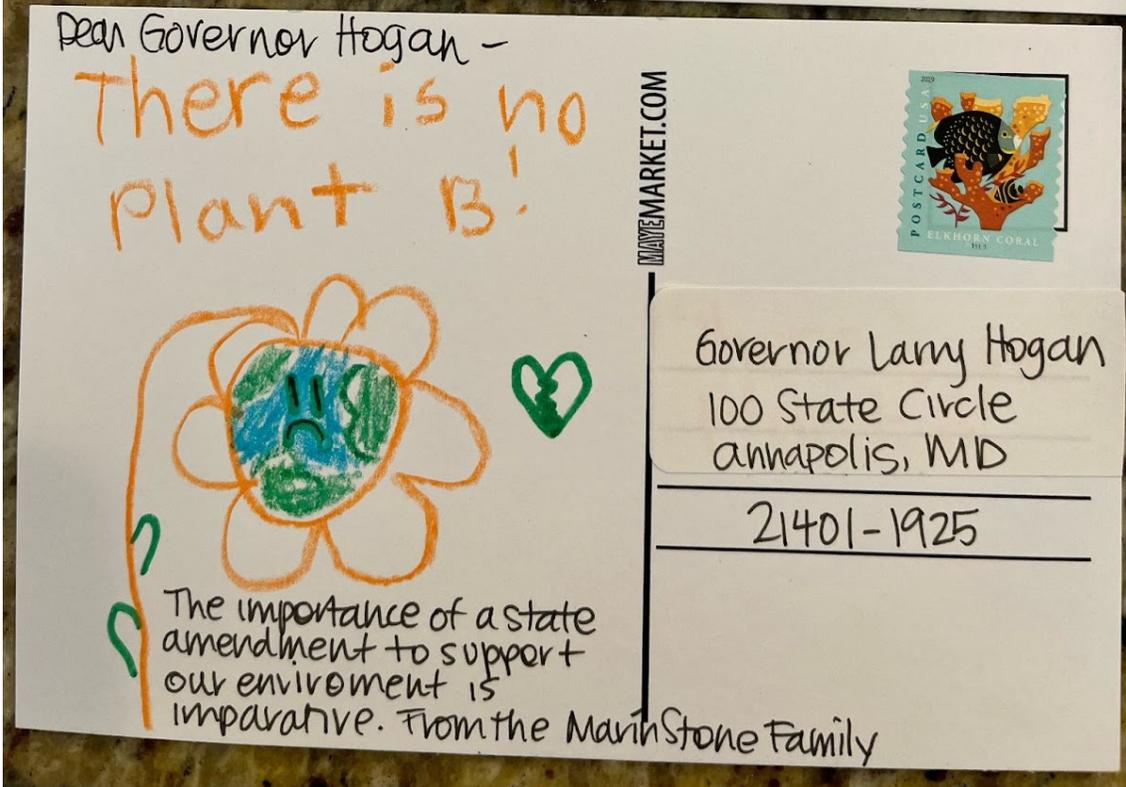






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Sen. Jeff Walderstreich
 2 East Miller Senate Office Bldg.
 11 Bladen St.
 Annapolis, MD 21401



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Governor Larry Hogan
 100 State Circle
 Annapolis, MD
 21401-1925

SB0783_RPPC_fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Barbara Jarvis

Position: FAV

To: Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Roland Park Presbyterian Church
4801 Roland Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21210

Re: Senate Bill Number: SB0783 (Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights)

Position: FAVORABLE

In reference to SB0783 (Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights), Roland Park Presbyterian Church supports this bill and urges your committee to approve its passage to the floor of the Senate. 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, subjecting 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 your committee 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

SB0783 March 9,2022.pdf

Uploaded by: Barbara Matheson

Position: FAV



SB0783 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

**Testimony before
Judicial Proceedings
March 9, 2022
Position: Favorable**

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Barbara Matheson, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in **support of SB0783**. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We appreciate the unified statement of the many sponsors of this bill.

At the core of American democracy are the principles that all persons have a natural right to life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and the enjoyments of the rewards of their own industry; that all persons are equal and entitled to equal rights, opportunities, and protections under the law; and that all persons have corresponding obligations to the people and to the State. The global climate crisis requires that issues relating to the protection of the environment can not be ignored and are fundamental to the well-being of all peoples of the earth and to their right to the above principles. More than 100 international governments have adopted environmental amendments.

SB0783 – Constitution Amendment - would add two provisions in the Declaration of Rights section of the Maryland State Constitution: (a) that each person has the fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment, and said right shall not be infringed, and (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 present and future generations.

The rights of all people and future generations to clean water and air, and a healthful environment needs to be at the foundation of all good government action. As such, the state's natural resources are held *in trust* by the government *for the people*.

Furthermore, a recent poll found that 76 percent of Marylanders are asking for such enshrined protections. The passage of SB 0783 provides opportunity for the citizens of Maryland to decide if environmental human rights are an inalienable right and should be added to the constitution.

We respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB0783.

Barbara Matheson
Columbia, MD 20144

SB783_FAV_SOPC.pdf

Uploaded by: Bonnie Raindrop

Position: FAV

SB 783: Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights
Judicial Proceedings Committee
March 9, 2022
Smart on Pesticides Coalition
Favorable



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.

SB0783_EHRA_MLC_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0783
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS**

Bill Sponsor: Senator Smith

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB0783 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.

L.Scarito SB 783 Testimony Template.docx(1).pdf

Uploaded by: Christianne Marguerite

Position: FAV



PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND

P.O. Box 6988 Largo, MD 20792
www.ProgressiveMaryland.org
Contact@ProgressiveMaryland.org
Facebook.com/ProgressiveMaryland
@Progressive_MD

Testimony on Maryland SENATE Bill SB0783: Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights

TO: Senator Smith, Chair, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Elizabeth Scarito, Progressive Maryland Environmental Justice Campaign, White Hall, District 27
DATE: March 9th, 2022
POSITION: SUPPORT

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on SB0783. Progressive Maryland is a grassroots, nonprofit organization with 9 chapters from Frederick to the Lower Shore and more than 100,000 members and supporters who live in nearly every legislative district in the state. In addition, there are dozens of affiliated community, faith, and labor organizations across the state that stand behind our work. Our mission is to improve the lives of working families in Maryland. Please note our strong SUPPORT FOR this bill.

As a retired internal medicine doctor, I ask you to support HB596/SB783 Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights. The proposed amendment would add the right to a healthy and sustainable environment to the Declaration of Rights section of the Maryland State Constitution, placing this right on par with all other civil rights protected by our constitution.

From 1975-1987 I worked as a chemical engineer before deciding to go back to school to become a doctor. During some of those years, I worked in a chemical plant in the Curtis Bay area of Baltimore. I saw first hand the effect that area chemical plants were having on the air, water, and land of that area. Now, years later that plant has been closed and the land is a toxic wasteland. The Fairfield housing community that was near the plant seems to have been abandoned, but there are still lots of homes in Brooklyn that were affected by the fumes, polluted water, and ugliness of the area. One of the reasons I decided to train in medicine was to help people affected by such exposures.

2022 is THE year to support, vote and pass the Maryland Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Human Rights. Our climate demands it. Our bodies demand it. Our children and future generations demand it. This is an election year and THE opportunity to give the voters their say about amending the Declaration of Rights section of the state constitution: 1) each person has a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthy and sustainable environment, and 2) the state, as trustee, shall protect, conserve, and enhance Maryland's natural resources,



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@Progressive_MD

including its air, water, lands, wildlife, and ecosystems, for the benefit of present and future generations.

As human beings, we rely on clean air, clean water, healthy soil, and a stable environment. Without these essentials, all other rights are jeopardized. Maryland residents face increasing exposure to pollutants in the air, water, and land which have negatively impacted public health with increased rates of lung disorders, heart disease and cancer. Even worse, the pandemic revealed that these disparities in exposure to air pollution also increased the likelihood of developing Covid19 in black and brown communities.

Please say YES to HB596/SB783 Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights!

Respectfully,
Elizabeth Scarito MD,
Progressive Maryland Environmental Justice Campaign
escarito1@gmail.com, 443-515-9586

We urge a FAVORABLE report on **SB0783**.

Megan SB 783 Testimony.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Christianne Marguerite

Position: FAV



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www.ProgressiveMaryland.org
Contact@ProgressiveMaryland.org
Facebook.com/ProgressiveMaryland
@Progressive_MD

Testimony on Maryland SENATE Bill SB0783: Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights

TO: Senator Smith, Chair, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Megan X, Progressive Maryland Environmental Justice Campaign, Takoma Park,
District 20
DATE: March 9th, 2022
POSITION: SUPPORT

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on SB0783. Progressive Maryland is a grassroots, nonprofit organization with 9 chapters from Frederick to the Lower Shore and more than 100,000 members and supporters who live in nearly every legislative district in the state. In addition, there are dozens of affiliated community, faith, and labor organizations across the state that stand behind our work. Our mission is to improve the lives of working families in Maryland. Please note our strong SUPPORT FOR this bill.

If you need a reason to support the Environmental Human Rights Bill, I'd like to share my story. I am a healthy 40-year-old woman. I don't smoke, I maintain a healthy weight, I love riding my bike, and I rarely eat red meat. In fact, at some points in my life I have followed vegan and vegetarian diets.

So imagine my surprise when I was recently diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer. It was a real shock. There weren't many warning signs until I collapsed on a sidewalk. The oncologist told me that cancers are becoming more common in people in their 30s and 40s. While some of it is early detection, my doctor also said that forever chemicals are a suspected cause, and this view is held by many in the medical community.

Forever chemicals, or PFAS, could or should have been removed from the market, but the initiatives to regulate them face challenges. Why? What is so radical about breathing clean air, drinking clean water, and living without fear of major climate disasters? It's true that I've always supported green causes, but my experience with cancer, likely caused by pollution, has reignited my view that things have got to change, and fast!

Respectfully,
Megan X, Member
Environmental Justice Campaign
info@progressivemaryland.org

We urge a FAVORABLE report on **SB0783**.

SB0783 Testimony from Todd Larsen.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Christianne Marguerite

Position: FAV



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P.O. Box 6988 Largo, MD 20792
www.ProgressiveMaryland.org
Contact@ProgressiveMaryland.org
Facebook.com/ProgressiveMaryland
@Progressive_MD

Testimony on Maryland SENATE Bill SB0783: Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights

TO: Senator Smith, Chair, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Todd Larsen, Progressive Maryland Member
DATE: March 9th, 2021
POSITION: **SUPPORT**

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on **SB0783**. Progressive Maryland is a grassroots, nonprofit organization with 9 chapters from Frederick to the Lower Shore and more than 100,000 members and supporters who live in nearly every legislative district in the state. In addition, there are dozens of affiliated community, faith, and labor organizations across the state that stand behind our work. Our mission is to improve the lives of working families in Maryland. Please note our strong support for this bill.

I am reaching out to urge you to support the Maryland Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Human Rights. This constitutional amendment would guarantee MD residents' right to a healthy environment - which is essential to maintaining residents' physical wellbeing, protecting the jobs of all Marylanders who rely on our waterways, ensuring the resilience of our food system, and uplifting Maryland's tourism industry.

Guaranteeing the right to a healthy environment will provide our private citizens with protections against the actions of corporations and companies who put profits ahead of protecting human health and following regulations. We cannot allow business leaders' threats to take their business elsewhere and the fear of change to push us to choose "business as usual" over our environment. We all need and have a right to clean air and water, but increasingly, these basic human needs are at risk, and particularly in communities of color and poor communities. Without a healthy planet, we cannot have a healthy populace.

All too often, short-term economic concerns are prioritized by elected officials and those short-term concerns create cascading, adverse impacts on the health, livelihoods, and overall well-being of the people. It is time to make fundamental changes to address the systemic problems contributing to the degradation of our environment.

Voting in support of the Maryland Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Human Rights will give generations of Marylanders the right to live in a healthful environment. It will also create a solid legal basis to review and revise our existing environmental legislative authorities to better



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P.O. Box 6988 Largo, MD 20792
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Contact@ProgressiveMaryland.org
Facebook.com/ProgressiveMaryland
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protect our environment, economy, and public health. The amendment will also lay the groundwork for our state to address deep inequities related to environmental racism, health disparities, and economic injustice.

Six states already have environmental rights in their constitutions - it is time for Maryland to join them and give the State the legal authority to serve as a protector of Maryland's natural resources.

The past couple of years have underscored the ways in which globalization deeply connects all communities and made clear that our increased use of natural resources is putting our health in danger - particularly for zoonotic illnesses correlated with deforestation.

As a constituent, I am asking you to please vote for the Maryland Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Human Rights.

I urge a FAVORABLE report on SB0783.

Sincerely,
Todd Larsen

SB783_MDEHR_FAV_ Dignitary Letter of Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Claire Miller

Position: FAV

March 8, 2022

Dear Chair Senator Smith, Vice-Chair Senator Waldstreicher, Senators of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, Chair Senator Pinsky, Vice-Chair Senator Kagan, and Senators of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

We, the undersigned civic leaders across Maryland, urge the Maryland General Assembly to pass SB783, the Environmental Human Rights Amendment in 2022.

The amendment would ensure that (1) each person has a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment, and (2) the state, as trustee, shall protect, conserve, and enhance Maryland's natural resources, including its air, water, lands, wildlife, and ecosystems, for the benefit of present 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 SB783, the Environmental Human Rights Amendment 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
Pastor Mark Harper, Takoma Park Presbyterian Church
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
Rabbi Richard Marker
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
Virginia Rodino, APALA Maryland Chapter President
Pastor Chris Schaefer, Divinity Lutheran Church, Towson MD
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

SB783_MDEHR_FAV_168 Organizations in Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Claire Miller

Position: FAV

March 8, 2022

Dear Chair Senator Smith, Vice-Chair Senator Waldstreicher, Senators of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, Chair Senator Pinsky, Vice-Chair Senator Kagan, and Senators of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

We, the undersigned coalition of organizations and supporters across Maryland, urge the Maryland General Assembly to pass SB783, the Environmental Human Rights Amendment.

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

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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.

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We ask that you support and pass SB783, the Environmental Human Rights Amendment 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

Add Your Organization Here

1199 SEIU
17 for Peace and Justice
350 Montgomery County
Addressing the System
Aid Through Trade, Inc.
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
BRIDGE Maryland Inc.
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 Air Prince George's
Clean Water Action
Climate Law & Policy Project
Climate Parents of Prince George's County
Climate XChange
Columbia Jewish Congregation
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
Greater Patapsco Community Association
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
Little Falls Watershed Alliance
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 United for Peace and Justice
Maryland Votes for Animals
Memorial Episcopal Church
MLC Climate Justice Wing
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Mountain Maryland Movement
Multifaith Alliance of Climate Stewards - Frederick
NAACP Maryland State Conference
National Aquarium

National Parks Conservation Association
National Wildlife Federation
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
Progressive Democrats of Howard County
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
Towson Presbyterian Church

Trash Free Maryland
UU Congregation of Rockville, MD
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

SB783_MDEHR_Fav_MDEHRA Petition-merged.pdf

Uploaded by: Claire Miller

Position: FAV



March 8, 2022

Dear Chair Senator Smith, Vice-Chair Senator Waldstreicher, Senators of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, Chair Senator Pinsky, Vice-Chair, Senator Kagan, and Senators of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

We, the people of Maryland, call upon the Maryland General Assembly, commencing January 12, 2022, to pass SB783, the Environmental Human Rights Amendment 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 each person has a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment. It would codify 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.

"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 and support passing SB783, the Environmental Human Rights Amendment 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: 2,805*

*Note: Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home has an additional 500 signatures from their petition submitted as written testimony. Grand total in support: 3,305 petition signatures.

First Name	Last Name	Street Address	City	State	Zip Code	E-mail	District	Personal Message
Nicole	Martin	11121 Vale Summit Rd SW	Frostburg	MD	21532	penguinsbirds0404@gmail.com	01	
Megan	Massa	324 Braddock Street	Frostburg	MD	21532	meganlmassa@gmail.com	01	
Andrew	R.		Cumberland	MD	21502	arichman27@yahoo.com	01	
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	
Robin	Broder	689 McAndrews Hill Road	Grantsville	MD	21536	rsbroder62@gmail.com	01A	
Courtney	Englar	90 Weaver Rd	Accident	MD	21520	oriole1969@gmail.com	01A	
Nadine	Grabania	177 Frazee Ridge Road	Friendsville	MD	21531	greenacres@deepcreekcellars.com	01A	
Liz	McDowell	90 Moonridge Ln	Grantsville	MD	21536	lmcd.mnps@gmail.com	01A	
Corrine	Mohnasky	147 Marsh Hill Rd	Mc Henry	MD	21541	cmohnasky@gmail.com	01A	
Karl	Schwalm	39 Sunset Dr.	Oakland	MD	21550	ke48s@outlook.com	01A	
Corrine	Vrabel Mohnasky	PO Box 988	Mc Henry	MD	21541-0988	cmohnasky@gmail.com	01A	
Corrine	Mohnasky	PO Box 988	Mc Henry	MD	21541-0988	cmohnasky@hotmail.com	01A	
								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.
Karen	Krogh	336 Grandview Dr	Frostburg	MD	21532-1414	clckek@verizon.net	01B	
Sierra	Reckley	516 Lowell Ave	Cumberland	MD	21502-1222	sierra.reckley@gmail.com	01B	
Donald	Dicken	422 Franklin St	Cumberland	MD	21502-1524	donaldpdicken4@yahoo.com	01B	
Sharon	Diehl	1258 Vocke Rd	Lavale	MD	21502-7548	sharonmelvadiehl@gmail.com	01B	
Joy	Kroeger-Mappes	82 Frost Ave	Frostburg	MD	21532-1639	jkroeger@frostburg.edu	01B	
Michelle	Lease	12421 Mount Savage Rd NW	Mount Savage	MD	21545-1432	twiggmickay@yahoo.com	01B	
Barbara	Connor	8 Oaktree Ln Apt B	Williamsport	MD	21795-1235	chokurei333@ymail.com	01C	
Melissa	Hensel	491 William's Street	Cumberland	MD	21502	mjhensel@yahoo.com	01C	
Claire	Lauder	650 Washington St	Cumberland	MD	21502	cclairelauder@gmail.com	01C	
Debra	Care	21604 Ridenour Rd	Boonsboro	MD	21713-1525	carebear21605@hotmail.com	02A	Americans not to have their air, water and environment toxic.
Sterling	Sanders	14626 Olsen Ln	Cascade	MD	21719-1840	sanderswashco@gmail.com	02A	
Joyce	Harris	18802 Briarwood Dr	Hagerstown	MD	21742-2636	joyceeharris@hotmail.com	02A	
Thomas	Brudenell	5049 Smith Rd	Rohrersville	MD	21779-1039	lynntom@myactv.net	02A	
Karlen	Keto	19609 Yarrowsburg Rd	Knoxville	MD	21758-1136	kmgoe@aol.com	02A	
Jeffrey	Russell	12 Millrace Ln	Keedysville	MD	21756-1315	jrussell36@hotmail.com	02A	
James	Beeler II	20653 Benevola Church Rd	Boonsboro	MD	21713-1711	fanfareman@hotmail.com	02A	
Nicole	Bennett	1411 Weverton Rd	Knoxville	MD	21758-1134	nino_9706@hotmail.com	02A	
Kitty	Clark	18807 Briarwood Dr	Hagerstown	MD	21742-2617	kittycc Clark@gmail.com	02A	
Campbell	Millar	18807 Briarwood Dr	Hagerstown	MD	21742-2617	ccmillar3@gmail.com	02A	
Douglas	Arnall	17625 Heisterboro Rd	Hagerstown	MD	21740-7532	douglas.arnall@mdsierra.org	02A	
Joseph	Dwyer	7829 Briar Patch Ln	Williamsport	MD	21795-3021	dwyer2@umbc.edu	02A	
Kat	Peterson	15015 Falling Waters Rd	Williamsport	MD	21795-2055	greenie005@hotmail.com	02A	
Ruth	Barron	445 E Oak Ridge Dr	Hagerstown	MD	21740-7401	bubbyclint@aol.com	02A	
Joyce	Harris	18802 Briarwood Dr	Hagerstown	MD	21742-2636	joyceeharris@earthlink.net	02A	

Michael	Brandt	339 Chartridge Dr	Hagerstown	MD	21742-3461	michael.brandt@msierra.org	02A	
Steve	Back	5813 Moser RD	Boonsboro	MD	21713	steveb@myactv.net	02A	
Piper	Gross	1841 Reed Rd	Knoxville	MD	21758	piperegross@gmail.com	02A	
Andrea	Norouzi	1350 Rohrersville Road	Knoxville	MD	21758	andibonita@gmail.com	02A	
Linda	Ritchie	10205 Bedford Ct.	Hagerstown	MD	21740	linda.ritchie2@outlook.com	02A	
Kirstin	Shrom-Rhoads	1620 Harpers Ferry Road	Knoxville	MD	21758	director@manidokan.com	02A	
Susan	Wert	10321 Lantern Ln	Hagerstown	MD	21740	bcccsue@aol.com	02A	
Wally	Minnick	119 Westside Ave	Hagerstown	MD	21740-4552	wallym@mac.com	02B	
Christina	Barnes	837 Armstrong Ave	Hagerstown	MD	21740-7101	shaboolian@gmail.com	02B	
ashlyn	koontz	1191 Fairchild Ave	Hagerstown	MD	21742	ashlynkoo@gmail.com	02B	
Carley	Swatsworth	1191 fairchild ave	Hagerstown	MD	21740	ceswatsworth@student.hagerstown.e	02B	
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.
B.	Conelley	821 Stratford Way	Frederick	MD	21701-9096	bgcisoarhed@live.com	03A	
Mylah	Kittle	8107 Broadview Dr	Frederick	MD	21701-3203	mylahanne365@icloud.com	03A	
Suzanne	Feldman	404 Lee Pl	Frederick	MD	21702-4147	feldsipe@verizon.net	03A	
Michael	Koob	1400 Baker Pl W Apt 21	Frederick	MD	21702-3241	mikekoob@hotmail.com	03A	
Deborah	Warfield	2191 Mountainview Dr	Frederick	MD	21702-2846	d.j.warfield20@gmail.com	03A	
Dedra	Salitrik	2509 Mill Race Rd	Frederick	MD	21701-6812	dedrasalitrik@gmail.com	03A	
Malgorzata	Schmidt	244 Dill Ave	Frederick	MD	21701-4906	mrzata@hotmail.com	03A	
Pat	Beach	1421 Taney Ave Apt 511	Frederick	MD	21702-4345	thesethreeare1@gmail.com	03A	
Erika	Riley	626 Trail Ave	Frederick	MD	21701-4934	ejoanriley@gmail.com	03A	
Charlotte	Masser	1608 N Market St	Frederick	MD	21701-4347	dkmcmmat@aol.com	03A	
Deborah	Portney	822 Mews Ln	Frederick	MD	21701-4669	dlportney@yahoo.com	03A	
Jeannette	Bartelt	110 Burgess Hill Way Apt 100	Frederick	MD	21702-4376	jmbartelt@gmail.com	03A	
Drew	Larsen	5807 Winding Oaks Ct	Frederick	MD	21704-6865	drewlarsenr@gmail.com	03A	
Kylie	Baker	6609 Fox Meade Court	Frederick	MD	21702	kylieamberr@gmail.com	03A	
Patricia	Beach	1421 Taney Ave., #511	Frederick	MD	21702	thesethreeare1@gmail.com	03A	
Patricia	Bodine	8120 Overlook Dr	Frederick	MD	21702	8120trish@gmail.com	03A	
Mary Kate	Boyle	610 Trail Ave	Frederick	MD	21701	mkboyle@comcast.net	03A	
Virginia	Brace	1604 Rock Creek Dr	Frederick	MD	21702	ginnybrace@gmail.com	03A	
Lynda	Brantley	2711 Homewood Dr.	Frederick	MD	21702	LYNNBRANTLEY@COMCAST.NET	03A	
Karen	Cannon	704 Wyngate Drive	Frederick	MD	21701	kc.cannon99@gmail.com	03A	
Susan	Chapin	2712 Homewood Dr.	Frederick	MD	21702	resue1@gmail.com	03A	
Barbara	Collins	6348 Claridge Drive North	Frederick	MD	21701	collins.joe46@yahoo.com	03A	
Marianne	Dacey	2500 Shelley Circle	Frederick	MD	21702	daceymj@gmail.com	03A	
Marianne	Dacey	200 Shelley Circle 2A	Frederick	MD	21702	daceymj@aol.com	03A	
Gerald	Fuss	7431 Willow RD #38	FREDERICK	MD	21702	gfuss827@comcast.net	03A	
Barbara	Gordon	15 E. South Street	Frederick	MD	21701	bgordon5241@verizon.net	03A	
Jane	Hawkanson	7431 Willow Road. #24	Frederick	MD	21702	hawkanson@comcast.net	03A	
Molly	Heroux	115 W 5TH ST	Frederick	MD	21701	mollyheroux@gmail.com	03A	
Edwin	Hoffman	500 Pearson Circle, Apt 3021	Frederick	MD	21702	hoffmane37@msn.com	03A	

Sonam	Karmacharya	5763 Barts Way	Frederick	MD	21704	karmacharyasonam@gmail.com	03A	
Thomas	Kloc	6603 Hunter Trail Way	Frederick	MD	21702	tjkloc@comcast.net	03A	
Mike	Koob	1400 Baker Pl W Apt 21	Frederick	MD	21702	mikekoob@hotmail.com	03A	
Susan	Kulp	41 E 3rd Street	Frederick	MD	21701	smkulp@earthlink.net	03A	
Amie	LaPorte	628 LEE PLACE	Frederick	MD	21702	gwendyllyne77@gmail.com	03A	
Alyce	Luck	8172 Claiborne Drive	Frederick	MD	21702	alyceluck@comcast.net	03A	
Priscilla	McDougal	276 Dill Ave, Frederick, MD	Frederick	MD	21701	pennymcdougal1945@gmail.com	03A	
Beth	Molesworth	116 Kline Blvd	Frederick	MD	21701	memolesworth@gmail.com	03A	
Cecilia	Plante	1021 Holden Road	Frederick	MD	21701-3437	ceciliaplante@verizon.net	03A	
Alyssa	Seibert	107 W 12th St	Frederick	MD	21701	lysbert75@gmail.com	03A	
George	Smith	2514 Angell Avenue	Frederick	MD	21702	gibanjo@verizon.net	03A	
Roberta	Speace	901 Mill Pond Rd	Frederick	MD	21701	bobbiespeace@comcast.net	03A	
Elizabeth	Tobin	8112 Runnymede Dr	Frederick	MD	21702	liza1scout@gmail.com	03A	
David H	Wallace	APT 202, 1001 CARROLL PKWY	Frederick	MD	21701	wallacedavidh@gmail.com	03A	
PHILIP	YOUNG	308 PEARSON BLVD	Frederick	MD	21702	pbyoung@comcast.net	03A	
Esther	Ziegler	500 Pearson Circle, Apt. 3007	Frederick	MD	21702	estherrziegler@gmail.com	03A	
William	Holmes	7351 Willow Rd Unt 1	Frederick	MD	21702	bilnanh@msn.com	03A	
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.
Laura	Calvert	5784 Morland Dr N	Adamstown	MD	21710-9444	calvert.laura@gmail.com	03B	
John	Lowe	PO Box 254	Braddock Height	MD	21714-0254	lowe@xecu.net	03B	
Sharon	Garlena	5238 Earles Ct	Frederick	MD	21703-2819	sharong0722@gmail.com	03B	
Vanessa	Gress	5024 Doubs Rd	Adamstown	MD	21710-8921	vanessa.sue.gress@gmail.com	03B	
Kathy	Calvert	5784 Morland Dr N	Adamstown	MD	21710-9444	Kathycalvert1@gmail.com	03B	
Richard	Kaplowitz	7056 Catalpa Rd	Frederick	MD	21703	kapactivist@verizon.net	03B	
Katherine	Reilly	8822 Shady Pines Drive	Frederick	MD	21704	katherinebreilly@gmail.com	03B	
John	Shillingburg	P.O. Box 275	Jefferson	MD	21755	jdshilli@gmail.com	03B	
Pat	Worsham	3336 Eclipse Drive	Jefferson	MD	21755	worsham@fred.net	03B	
Ann	Payne	10 Jessorong Dr	Middletown	MD	21769-8065	paynestake@gmail.com	04	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.
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.

Robert	De Filippis	5536 Etzler Rd	Frederick	MD	21702-2352	rgdefilippis@yahoo.com	04	
Elizabeth	Orr	305 E Main St	Burkittsville	MD	21718-9230	edeckerorr@comcast.net	04	
Donald	Watson	28001 Barnes Rd	Monrovia	MD	21770-8806	dbw49@comcast.net	04	
Amy	Peters	11302 Treeview Ln	Monrovia	MD	21770-9506	peters509@comcast.net	04	
Julie	Gilles	5645 Morning Glory Trl	New Market	MD	21774-7018	summer.doves@gmail.com	04	
Mary	Mann	2006 Jefferson Pike	Knoxville	MD	21758-9217	marymann29@gmail.com	04	
Dave	Jordahl	317 S Church St	Middletown	MD	21769-8044	dave.jordahl@montgomerycountymd.	04	
Paula	Willey	5790 Catoclin Vista Dr	Mount Airy	MD	21771-6022	seafeatherstar@aol.com	04	
Stephanie	Felton	14 E F St	Brunswick	MD	21716-1423	gluegoyle@comcast.net	04	
Patti	Fredericks	6121 Mountaindale Rd	Thurmont	MD	21788-2712	pattithrmnt1@aol.com	04	
Kathleen	Rall	1501 Arnoldtown Rd	Jefferson	MD	21755-9710	treepeople@aol.com	04	
Paul	W	9478 Frostown Rd	Middletown	MD	21769-9613	wallydog_2000@yahoo.com	04	
Mark	Long	800 Frailey Rd	Emmitsburg	MD	21727-9202	mark.long999@gmail.com	04	
Susan	Haney	11842 S Baugher Rd	Thurmont	MD	21788-2327	susanhaney58@hotmail.com	04	
Davin	Faris	12102 Coppermine Rd	Union Bridge	MD	21791-8430	fariswheel727@gmail.com	04	
Mary Ellen	Michael	11214 Putman Rd	Thurmont	MD	21788-2749	mem.wright@comcast.net	04	
Leah	Mack	12102 Coppermine Rd	Union Bridge	MD	21791-8430	1ecofarmer@gmail.com	04	
Clifford	Barr	9200 Willamette Pl Apt 401	Frederick	MD	21704-7467	clavbarr@gmail.com	04	
Owen	Faris	12102 Coppermine Rd	Union Bridge	MD	21791-8430	owenpfaris@gmail.com	04	
Maryrose	Wilson	12102 Coppermine Rd	Union Bridge	MD	21791-8430	mimilagro@yahoo.com	04	
Margaret	Stambaugh	15014 Mud College Rd	Thurmont	MD	21788-1331	mostambaugh@gmail.com	04	
Marilou	Barratt	10060 Vista Ct	Myersville	MD	21773-8138	marilou_barratt@hotmail.com	04	
Ingrid	Rosencrantz	8089 Fingerboard Rd	Frederick	MD	21704-7626	catoclinck@gmail.com	04	
Sonia	Demiray	1401 Jefferson Pike # A	Knoxville	MD	21758-9311	sonia@demirayink.com	04	
Todd	Loveless	7506 Mason Ct	Middletown	MD	21769-6914	lovelesst@comcast.net	04	
Allan	Davis	8304 Brookmere Blvd	Frederick	MD	21702-2346	aldvs8304@comcast.net	04	
Charles	MacFarland	2995 Hope Mills Ln	Adamstown	MD	21710-9214	pharlane@comcast.net	04	
Cynthia	Arnold	3634 Franklinville Rd	New Windsor	MD	21776-8012	cadogdazed@aol.com	04	
Joseph	Beidle	9347 Hawbottom Rd	Middletown	MD	21769-9303	jbeid8@aol.com	04	
Amanda	Lindsay	13589 Harrisville Rd	Mount Airy	MD	21771-7925	amandablindsay@comcast.net	04	
Clifford	Barr	9200 Williamette Place, Apt. 401	Frederick	MD	21704	clavbarr@gmail.com	04	
Elizabeth	Bauer	8097 Geaslin Dr	Middletown	MD	21769-8434	ebenvision@gmail.com	04	
Annette	Breiling	3300 Lowell Lane	Ijamsville	MD	21754	annette.breiling@gmail.com	04	
Gracie	Chaney	2813 Sams Creek Rd	New Windsor	MD	21776	graciechaney21@gmail.com	04	
Daniel	Cole	9 north Virginia ave	Brunswick	MD	21716	coledg9816@gmail.com	04	
Katherine	Collins	316 N Maple Ave	Brunswick	MD	21716	katherinekcollins@gmail.com	04	
Linda	Coyle	8653 Chestnut Grove Rd	Frederick	MD	21701	lkcoyle@yahoo.com	04	
Scott	Edie	1220 Marker Rd	Middletown	MD	21769	scottiedie@icloud.com	04	
Nancy	Evans	10850 Renner Rd	Woodsboro	MD	21798	learn153@aol.com	04	
Neil	Gormley	316 North Maple Avenue, Brunswick, MD	Brunswick	MD	21716	neil_e_gormley@yahoo.com	04	
Mary	Kelly	8619 Pete Wiles Rd	Middletown	MD	21769	kellysendeavor@comcast.net	04	
Lynn	Kieffer	9705 Eagle Ridge Ct	Ijamsville	MD	21754	lynnkieffer@icloud.com	04	
Emma	Knox	207 MINA DR	Middletown	MD	21769	emmahully@hotmail.com	04	
Ellen	Kreis	1189A Della Rd	Dickerson	MD	20842	getelleny@aol.com	04	
Julie	Kunz	4944 Tall Oaks Dr	Monrovia	MD	21770-9316	thrownthings@comcast.net	04	
Jane	Ladner	3827 Green Valley Road	Ijamsville	MD	21754	ladnerjane@gmail.com	04	

Amanda	Lindsay	13589 Harrisville Rd.	Mount Airy	MD	21771	amandablindsay@comcast.net	04	
Julie	Maynard	1220 Marker Rd	Middletown	MD	21769	juliemayn@gmail.com	04	
CJ	McAuliffe	2652 Sams Creek Road	New Windsor	MD	21776	Cjhome23@gmail.com	04	
Ernest	Muhly	120 Grantham Court	Walkersville	MD	21793	ecorslve@earthlink.net	04	
Carolyn	Nair	109 Ivy Hill Drive	Middletown	MD	21769	taxicab17@comcast.net	04	
Ann	Payne	10 Jesserong Drive	Middletown	MD	21769	paynestake@gmail.com	04	
Bernadette	Roche	3396 Red Oak Court	Middletown	MD	21769	broche@loyola.edu	04	
Pamela	Shepp	5769 Woodglade Circle	New Market	MD	21774	prshepp@comcast.net	04	
David	Smith	2203 Flag Marsh Road	Mount Airy	MD	21771	lacsmit12@comcast.net	04	
JAMES	SPEICHER	5921 Picnic Woods Rd	Jefferson	MD	21755	jugornought@yahoo.com	04	
Shelley	Weakly	3628 Singleton Terrace	Frederick	MD	21704	shelley.w.weakly@gmail.com	04	
Sonia	Demiray	1401 Jefferson Pike	Knoxville	MD	21758	sonia@demirayink.com	04	
Abbi	Pettinati	13688 Samhill Dr	Mount Airy	MD	21771	abbipettinati@gmail.com	04	
Roxanna	Harlow	392 Juliet Lane	Westminster	MD	21157	rharlow@comcast.net	05	
MaryEllen	Jackle	19 S Church St	Westminster	MD	21157	mellyelly2011@gmail.com	05	
Rev. Dr. Marty	Kuchma	17 Bond Street	Westminster	MD	21157	martykuchma@gmail.com	05	
Mark	Duetsch	3075 Murkle Rd	Westminster	MD	21158-2109	markandcandy@comcast.net	05	
Stephanie	Koons	2221 Patapsco Rd	Finksburg	MD	21048-1116	willavo@yahoo.com	05	
Hannah	van der Veken	2 College Hl	Westminster	MD	21157-4390	hlvanderveken@loyola.edu	05	
Maria	Johnson	909 Lorraine Dr	Finksburg	MD	21048-1126	pmariajohnson@gmail.com	05	
Charles	Huber	1220 Owings Rd	Westminster	MD	21157-5961	champ24daytona@comcast.net	05	
Maggie	Harding	1860 Hoff Ln	Finksburg	MD	21048-1308	music4mag@aol.com	05	
Russell	Dick	22 Middle Grove Ct W	Westminster	MD	21157-5320	russelldick@verizon.net	05	
Maureen	Ackerman	2799 Graybill Ct	New Windsor	MD	21776-9711	maureenack@comcast.net	05	
Daniel	Leibensperger	4646 Poole Rd	Sykesville	MD	21784-9131	leibendk@yahoo.com	05	
Marjorie	Siegelman	1660 Linzee Dr	Westminster	MD	21157-7428	marjay33@gmail.com	05	
Heather	Gibson	3749 Middleburg Rd	Union Bridge	MD	21791-9201	hmb28@hotmail.com	05	
Marsha	Ansel	1911 Ridgewood Ct	Hampstead	MD	21074-2520	marsha317@verizon.net	05	
Gwendolyn	East	3981 Robin Hood Way	Sykesville	MD	21784-9532	gweneast@hotmail.com	05	
Meghan	Stevens	1407 High St	Westminster	MD	21158-2725	mmstevens@smcm.edu	05	
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 298 East Green Street, Apt A,	Westminster	MD	21157	kazyakpaul@gmail.com	05	
Catherine	Marinello	298 East Green Street, 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	mamcclintock33@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.
George	Nickor	10003 Bird River Rd	Middle River	MD	21220	gnickor@sierra.org	07	
Joseph	D'Adamo Jr	7142 Olivia Rd.	BALTIMORE	MD	21220	dadamo@comcast.net	07	
Pamela	Dehmer	928 Bergen Ct	Bel Air	MD	21014	auntpurple@gmail.com	07	
Nicholas	Korpon	2200 Hyden Court	Fallston	MD	21047	nkorpon@gmail.com	07	
Judith	Pentz	2100 Cypress Drive	Bel Air	MD	21015	japentz@reallynews.com	07	
Erin	Subramanian	613 Joppa Farm Rd	Joppa	MD	21085		07	
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.ehrsam40@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	lilhob19@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	lensonnature@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	
Patrick	Bomgardner	9611 Trepid Road, 9611 Trepid R	Silver Meadow	MD	21236	pbomgar@aol.com	08	
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	Bensinger	3300 Roscommon Drive	Glenelg	MD	21737	ibensinger@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	zflamingo176@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 2000 Arrington Road, Marriottsville	Woodstock	MD	21163	lhg5037@gmail.com	09	
Jennifer	Grimelli		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	leapearl2005@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	

Theresa	Beckmann	10206 Sand Trap Ct	Ellicott City	MD	21042		09A	
Cyrus	Caluply	11510 Homewood Rd	Ellicott City	MD	21042		09A	
Mark	Haney	2365 Route 97	Cooksville	MD	21723	chloe2@verizon.net	09A	
Julie	Haney	2365 Route 97	Cooksville	MD	21723		09A	
Faith	Haney	2365 Route 97	Cooksville	MD	21723		09A	
Kenneth	Loje	12081 Windsor Moss	Ellicott City	MD	21042	lcfbje@verizon.net	09A	
Vincent	Love	11041 Dorsch Farm Rd	Ellicott City	MD	21042	vlove52@verizon.net	09A	
Martha	Mastin	3133 Pine Orchard Ln #402	Ellicott City	MD	21042	mminmn@aol.com	09A	
Walter	McCrew	13659 Highland Rd	Clarksville	MD	21029		09A	
Joanna	Ramos-Romero	1152 Day Rd	Sykesville	MD	21784	jramosromero@gmail.com	09A	
Sofia	Romero	1152 Day Rd	Sykesville	MD	21784	soaps1124@gmail.com	09A	
William	Thatcher	12909 Kentbury Dr	Clarksville	MD	21029	taterhiat@gmail.com	09A	
Margo	Veal	10563 Dorchester Way	Woodstock	MD	21163		09A	
Don	Veal	10563 Dorchester Way	Woodstock	MD	21163	vealdon@aol.com	09A	
Terry	Veal	10563 Dorchester Way	Woodstock	MD	21163		09A	
Linda	Vestnak	10254 Bristol Channel	Ellicott City	MD	21042	vestnak@gmail.com	09A	
Debbie	Wilcon	12909 Kentbury Dr	Clarksville	MD	21029	drdwilson@aol.com	09A	
Monika	Willging	11979 Grayton Run	Ellicott City	MD	21042		09A	
Andrea	David	1220 Ed Glenn Drive	Woodbine	MD	21797	knitmomandrea@gmail.com	09A	
Phil	David	1220 Ed Glenn Drive	Woodbine	MD	21797	phil21797@gmail.com	09A	
Josh	Griffith	21 liberty rd	Sykesville	MD	21784	infernosilver@yahoo.com	09A	
Eileen	Singleton	3710 Takoya Dr	Ellicott City	MD	21042	eileenmgs@gmail.com	09A	
Martin	Wasserman	13200 Triadelphia Rd	Ellicott City	MD	21042	mpwasserman@jhu.edu	09A	
Josh	Griffith	21 Liberty Rd	Sykesville	MD	21784		09A	
Nancy	Wade	3649 Valley Rd	Ellicott City	MD	21042-5230	jrnw@aol.com	09B	Recognizing the fundamental right to a clean and healthy environment can provide significant and long-standing benefits. It is past time to act in creating a truly equitable environment for all our citizens.
Patricia	Soffen	5310 Honey Ct	Ellicott City	MD	21043-8205	patricia.soffen@gmail.com	09B	
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	ELLICOTT 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
Linda	Yi	9080 Town and Country Blvd	Ellicott City	MD	21043	linda9yi@gmail.com	09B
Rita	Aglou	4241 Kerger Rd	Ellicott City	MD	21043	ritaaglou@yahoo.com	09B
Toni	Alien	9000 Fathers Legacy #14	Ellicott City	MD	21042		09B
James	Allen	9000 Fathers Legacy #14	Ellicott City	MD	21042		09B
Melanie	Coale	3114 Wheaton Way Apt H	Ellicott City	MD	21043		09B
Patricia	Cook	8261 Academy Rd	Ellicott City	MD	21043	trich6985@verizon.net	09B
Lindsey	Do	5341 Kerger Rd	Ellicott City	MD	21043		09B
Christian	Do	5341 Kerger Rd	Ellicott City	MD	21043		09B
Stephen	Hilbert	8596 Harvest View Ct	Ellicott City	MD	21043	shilbert@usub.org	09B
Gabielo	Huerta	3410 Hickory Dr	Ellicott City	MD	21043		09B
Mary	Jorgensen	3713 Ligon Rd	Ellicott City	MD	21042	mjorgensen@yahoo.com	09B
Teddy	Jorgensen	3713 Ligon Rd	Ellicott City	MD	21042	awecometeddy@gmail.com	09B
Dot	Keczmerski	9000 Fathers Legacy #426	Ellicott City	MD	21042		09B
John	Keczmerski	9000 Fathers Legacy #426	Ellicott City	MD	21042		09B
Diana	Ly	5341 Kerger Rd	Ellicott City	MD	21043		09B
Frank	Markey	8134 Village Crest Dr	Ellicott City	MD	21043		09B
Gary	Martinaiti	4168 Brittany Dr	Ellicott City	MD	21043	garyjmar1@verizon.net	09B
Fran	Martiney	8134 Village Crest Dr	Ellicott City	MD	21043	febeckman@yahoo.com	09B
Tim	Nader	4017 Willow Bend Ct	Ellicott City	MD	21042	jtnader@gmail.com	09B
Francisa	Nwugwo	4941 Montgomery Rd	Ellicott City	MD	21043	fnwugwo@hotmail.com	09B
Bouiface	Nwygwo	4941 Montgomery Rd	Ellicott City	MD	21043	bnwygwo@gmail.com	09B
Brian	Nwygwo	4941 Montgomery Rd	Ellicott City	MD	21043	brianonwugwo@gmail.com	09B
Corita	Odayoyo	9050 Fathers Legacy	Ellicott City	MD	21042	saintjude@icloud.com	09B
Jeffrey	Sham	4265 Red Bandana Way	Ellicott City	MD	21042		09B
James	Sham	4265 Red Bandana Way	Ellicott City	MD	21042	jsksham@gmail.com	09B
John	Soriano	3307 Sonia Trl	Ellicott City	MD	21043	jpisoriano@aol.com	09B
Jeannie	Soriano	3307 Sonia Trl	Ellicott City	MD	21043	jrcsoriano@aol.com	09B
Anneliese	Thomsom	4533 Tulip Way	Ellicott City	MD	21043	vigor93@aol.com	09B
Marie	Whiddon	8901 Brauerton Rd, #301	Ellicott City	MD	21043		09B
Lauren	Albert	2824 Still Leaf Lane	Ellicott City	MD	21042	lauren.a0518@gmail.com	09B

Laurie	Liskin	4642 Smokey Wreath Way	Ellicott City	MD	21042	lliskin49@gmail.com	09B	
Laila	Peterson	8009 Finest Hour ct	Ellicott City	MD	21043	laila.peterson12005@gmail.com	09B	
Andrea	Schumacher	9024 Crestleigh Rd	Ellicott City	MD	21042	ANDREA_SCHUMACHER@HOTMA	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.
Timmi	Wolff	215 Glyndon Meadow Rd	Reisterstown	MD	21136-6438	timmi@wolffandcompany.com	10	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.
Cecilia	Rund	5405 Weywood Dr	Reisterstown	MD	21136	crrund@yahoo.com	10	
Jennifer	White	10808 Ephraim Drive	Owings Mills	MD	21117	jarice.white@gmail.com	10	
Kenneth	Douglas	9669 Devedente Dr	Owings Mills	MD	21117		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	jinih44@gmail.com	10	
Sheridan	Allmond	7410 Millwood Road	Windsor Mill	MD	21244	sallmond03@yahoo.com	10	
Arlynn	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	crrund@yahoo.com	10	
Sibga	Sufian	11 Bank Spring Ct	Owings Mills	MD	21117	sibga.sufian@gmail.com	10	
Ivy	Hill	4702 New Town Blvd	Owings Mills	MD	21117	ivymhill@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!

Dori	Grasso	12207 Happy Hollow Rd	Cockeysville	MD	21030		11	
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 Lhirondele Club Rd	Towson	MD	21204-6421	lisacreichenbach@yahoo.com	11	
Richard	Shannahan	1615 Greenspring Dr	Lutherville Timon	MD	21093-4907	rshannahan@verizon.net	11	
Laurie	Feldmna	6931 Clearwind Ct	Baltimore	MD	21209-1625	magiclvr67@aol.com	11	
Steven	Hoffman	8528 Park Heights Ave	Baltimore	MD	21208-1717	orcadog85@gmail.com	11	
Sam	Akman	1400 Locust Ave	Towson	MD	21204	akmanm@fmail.com	11	
Claire	Akst	108 troutbeck ct	Lutherville Timon	MD	21093	cakst@friendsbalt.org	11	
Paul	Bellone	205 Belmont Forest Ct	Lutherville Timon	MD	21093	belluno77@verizon.net	11	
Amy	Boscov	10 Timothy's Green Ct.	Pikesville	MD	21208	amy.boscov@gmail.com	11	
Sarah	Brown	400 Rockfleet Rd	Lutherville Timon	MD	21093	sarahbrown40@comcast.net	11	
Rita	Bueche	8404 Charles Valley Court - C	Towson	MD	21204	rbuechessnd@gmail.com	11	
Mary	Bunting	6506 Darnall Rd	Baltimore	MD	21204	mcb5883@comcast.net	11	
MaryCatherine	Bunting	6506 Darnall Rd	Towson 21204	MD	21204	marycathybunting@comcast.net	11	
Nina	Cardin	3617 Anton Farms Road	Baltimore	MD	21208	nina@mdehr.org	11	
Nina	Cardin	3617 Anton Farms Road, none 6021 Lakeview Rd, Baltimore MD	BALTIMORE	MD	21208	nina.cardin@gmail.com	11	
Suzanne	Chapelle	6605 Pebble Brooke Road	Baltimore	MD	21210-1033	suechapelle@yahoo.com	11	
Shiana	Copeland	6605 Pebble Brooke Road	Baltimore	MD	21209	shaina.copeland.copieditor@gmail.c	11	
Naomi	Cutler	2015 Burdock Rd	Baltimore	MD	21209	naomicutler@me.com	11	
Reuben	Danyali	2221 Shefflin Ct.	Baltimore	MD	21209	reuben.danyali@gmail.com	11	
Betsy	Diamant-Cohen	Chippewa Drive	Baltimore	MD	21209	betsydc@gmail.com	11	
Donna	Eden	4 Seminary Drive	Lutherville Timon	MD	21093-4755	dze1946@gmail.com	11	
Valerie	Eisman	8 Firwood Court	Cockeysville	MD	21030	vjeisman@yahoo.com	11	
Brent	Englar	2124 Heritage Drive	Baltimore	MD	21209	benglar44@gmail.com	11	
Marcia	Glass-Siegel	2401 Diana Rd	Baltimore	MD	21209	marcia.glass@gmail.com	11	
Craig	Gold	3713 Ashley Way	Owings Mills	MD	21117	aegclg@gmail.com	11	
Samuel	Gold	3713 Ashley Way, Owings Mills, MD	Owings Mills	MD	21117	sgold125@gmail.com	11	
Amy	Gold	3713 Ashley Way	Owings Mills	MD	21117	amygoldevolveyoga@gmail.com	11	
Connie	Hankins	11 Slade Ave, #301	Pikesville	MD	21208-5229	chank6008@gmail.com	11	
Lee	Hendler	10717 Stevenson Rd	Stevenson	MD	21153	lee@magnajm.com	11	
Michael	Ichniowski	8333 Tally Ho Road	Lutherville Timon	MD	21093	michich23@hotmail.com	11	
Anita	King	3644 Epping Forest Way	Owings Mills	MD	21117	aak527@gmail.com	11	
Claire	Landers	2409 HAL CIR	Baltimore	MD	21209	clairelanders1@gmail.com	11	
Beth	Marrus	6605 Pebble Brooke Rd	Baltimore	MD	21209	marrus@comcast.net	11	
Amy	Mason	315 Wickersham Way	Cockeysville	MD	21030	amsmason@verizon.net	11	
Beth	McNamara	8015 Rider Ave	Towson	MD	21204	bmcnamara8015@gmail.com	11	
Diane	Morain	11 Devon Hill Road B8	Baltimore	MD	21210-1043	diane.morain@gmail.com	11	
Patricia	Murphy	8428 Charles Valley Court D	Towson	MD	21204-2039	pmurphysnd@Gmail.com	11	
Diane	Nemett	2109 Our Lane	Stevenson	MD	21153	dnemett28@gmail.com	11	
David	Norbrook	8202 SPRING BOTTOM WAY	Pikesville	MD	21208-1858	david.norbrook@ell.ox.ac.uk	11	

Alex	Norbrook	8202 Spring Bottom Way	Pikesville	MD	21208	alexn22@parkschool.net	11	
Marilyn	O'Mansky	3400 Woodvalley Dr	Pikesville	MD	21208	ikebergcats@gmail.com	11	
Avram	Reisner	3617 Anton Farms RD	Pikesville	MD	21208	avramreisner@aim.com	11	
Andy	Scheinman	1404 Wiltwyck Rd, Baltimore, MD	Baltimore	MD	21209	flyfolk@aol.com	11	
Mary	Talalay	11403 woodland dr	Lutherville Timon	MD	21093	mtalalay@jhu.edu	11	
Debbie	Taylor	2310 Crestnoll Road	Reisterstown	MD	21136	lougregdan@verizon.net	11	
Cynthia	Taylor	4800 Coyle Rd #409	Owings Mills	MD	21117	cynthiaataylor1@verizon.net	11	
Ethan	Traub	5 Beecham Ct	Owings Mills	MD	21117	emtraub@gmail.com	11	
Marilyn	Valentine	1614 Dennis Ave	Baltimore	MD	21204	riderlynn@verizon.net	11	
ilene	vogelstein	3624 Anton Farms Rd	Pikesville	MD	21208	ivogelstein@gmail.com	11	
Nancy Beth	Volk	7807 Bellona Avenue	Towson	MD	21204	nbvolk@verizon.net	11	
Susan Russell	Walters	2 Knoll Ridge Ct, Apt 1622	Baltimore	MD	21210-1133	susan1624@gmail.com	11	
Laurence	Weis	301 Greenspring Valley Rd	Owings Mills	MD	21117	loloweis@gmail.com	11	
Terri	Williams	115 Reisterstown	Towson	MD	21139	terrikw1@aol.com	11	
A	Wolfe	8222 Carrbridge Circle	Towson	MD	21204	allie.alt.email@gmail.com	11	
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	perpubl@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	doctorf_x_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
Stephanie	Aglou	4950 Walking Stick Rd, #D	Ellicott City	MD	21043	stephaglou04@gmail.com	12	
Carolyn	Arena	5033 Broken Oak Ln	Columbia	MD	21044	lagcar4@comcast.net	12	
Larry	Arena	5033 Broken Oak Ln	Columbia	MD	21044	lagcar4@comcast.net	12	
Kathleen	Armstrong	10846 Green View Way	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Kwaku	Attapoku	5505 Suffield Ct	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Gregory	Baker	16 Overhill Rd	Catonsville	MD	21228		12	
Valerie	Baker	16 Overhill Rd	Catonsville	MD	21228	baker.family@yahoo.com	12	
Juan	Barraza	5475 Columbia Rd	Columbia	MD	21044	jiose399@gmail.com	12	
Joan	Benjamin	10363 Buglenote Way	Columbia	MD	21044	jmbenjamin@ecs.com	12	
Juan	Benjamin	10363 Buglenote Way	Columbia	MD	21044	jbenjamin@sprynet.com	12	
Sonia	Boadi	5505 Suffield Ct	Columbia	MD	21044		12	

Maura	Bookter	6267 Golden Hook	Columbia	MD	21044	mabookter@hotmail.com	12	
Richard	Bush	5400 Vantage Point Rd	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Ellen	Callahan	5014 Ten Mills Rd	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Louise	Carlson	6115 Triangle Dr	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
David	Carlson	6115 Triangle Dr	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
David	Clark	8110 Wooded Glen Ct	Ellicott City	MD	21043	david.31279@gmail.com	12	
Kenie	Clermont	10604 Hickory Crest Ln	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Dal	Dawnstull	6201 Branch Beech	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Isabelle	DeBurgo	5457 Treefrog Pl	Columbia	MD	21045	ideburgo@gmail.com	12	
Elizabeth	Dominguez	5369 Hesperus Dr	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Steve	Donald	5079 Blacksmith Dr	Columbia	MD	21044	stevepdonald@verizon.net	12	
Mary	Donegan	5667 Thicket Ln	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Mary	Donilan	8816 Besthold Garth	Columbia	MD	21045	marypath@outlook.com	12	
Sean	Edwards	6256 Audubon Dr	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Emelia	Egud	5457 Treefrog Pl	Columbia	MD	21045	mekegud@yahoo.com	12	
Anna	Esquela	6000 Snow Crystal	Columbia	MD	21044	esquela.maria@gmail.com	12	
Kathleen	Fedder	10583 Faulkner Ridge Cir	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
David	Fritz	5066 Durham Rd W	Columbia	MD	21044	dafritz1@comcast.net	12	
Peggy	Fritz	5066 Durham Rd W	Columbia	MD	21044	peggyfritz146@gmail.com	12	
Karne	Gerry-Ofor	10440 Swift Stream Pl	Columbia	MD	21044	legofor2@gmail.com	12	
Stanley	Godlewski	8873 Blade Green Ln	Columbia	MD	21045		12	
Trish	Granahan	10638 Glass Tumbler Path	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Reuben	Hermoso	5126 W Running Brook Rd	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Suzette	Holiday	11069 Swansfield Rd	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Lisa	Jaworski	5037 Green Mountain Cir #2	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Jeanette	Jenkins	10800 Symphony Way	Columbia	MD	21044	stellmag1@icloud.com	12	
Carly	Kaufman	10850 Green Mountain Cir	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Harris	Kirby	5407 Bishops Head Ct	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Mary	Klett	6135 Llanfair Dr	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Joanne	LaPorte	5400 Vantage Point Rd	Columbia	MD	21044	joannelaporte6@gmail.com	12	
Ann	Leffner	5042 Round Tower Pl	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Len	Leffner	5042 Round Tower Pl	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Sandra	Lopez	10704 Cordage Walk	Columbia	MD	21044	sondralopez20011@yahoo.com	12	
Judith	Major	10936 Kathleen Ct	Columbia	MD	21044	annu.sequi@verizon.net	12	
Gene	Major	10936 Kathleen Ct	Columbia	MD	21044	grmajor@gmail.com	12	
Patricia	Marshall	10973 Millbank Row	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Margeret	Martin	6247 Plaited Reed	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Evelyne	Mbandi	4960 Webbed Foot Way	Ellicott City	MD	21043	ombandi@hotmail.com	12	
Kay	McElgunn	10103 Windstream Dr	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Ann	McHale	11233 Snowflake Ct	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Annette	Morgan	5400 Montgomery Rd	Ellicott City	MD	21043		12	
Catherine	Nuala	11048 Berrypick Ln	Columbia	MD	21044	oge23chukw4@gmail.com	12	
Marilyn	Okaitege	1094 Waterfowl Ter	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Florence	Okehie	5398 Elliots Oak Rd	Columbia	MD	21044	fokehie@hotmail.com	12	
Alicia	Ore	5549 April Journey Way	Columbia	MD	21044	aliciakv@aol.com	12	
Patricia	Orellano	10808 Green Mountain Cir	Columbia	MD	21044		12	

Richard	Ortmann	11602 Sun Circle Way	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
David	Palasits	10970 Rock Coast Rd	Columbia	MD	21044	dpalasits@gmail.com	12	
John	Pelszynski	11906 Gold Needle Way	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Patty	Pelszynski	11906 Gold Needle Way	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Oliver	Permenter	5149 Hesperus Dr	Columbia	MD	21044	opermenter1@gmail.com	12	
Theresa	Petrungaro	12211 Sleepy Horse Ln	Columbia	MD	21044	theresa.petrungaro@gmail.com	12	
Helen	Phillips	10101 Governor Warfield Pkwy	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Monique	Pouyer	6188 Devon Dr	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Beverly	Prosen	6117 Fence Post Ct	Columbia	MD	21044	bprosen@hotmail.com	12	
Michael	Rossiter	6253 Cricket Pass	Columbia	MD	21044	Rossiter5@comcast.net	12	
Susan	Salvucci	10102 Hyla Brook Rd	Columbia	MD	21044	susansalvucci@hotmail.com	12	
Grace	Satauf	6257 Martin Rd	Columbia	MD	21044	gmschair@gmail.com	12	
Lisa	Scata	10832 Harmel Dr	Columbia	MD	21044	scatalisa@gmail.com	12	
Sandy	Sceeringer	6183 Wicker Basket Ct	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Don	Scuta	10832 Harmel Dr	Columbia	MD	21044	dscutajr1@gmail.com	12	
Carl	Sheridan	10755 Evening Wind Ct	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Irene	Sheridan	10755 Evening Wind Ct	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Suzana	Silva	11604 Little Patuxent Pkwy #101	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Michael	Splairil	5416 White Mane	Columbia	MD	21045		12	
Nancy	Stefun	10435 Green Mountain Cir	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Greg	Strakna	Reedy Brook Ln	Columbia	MD	21044	strakna@gmail.com	12	
Sharon	Strobel	5253 Eliots Oak Rd	Columbia	MD	21044	rh.strobel@verizon.net	12	
Richard	Strobel	5253 Eliots Oak Rd	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Laura	Thatcher	11006 Berypick Ln	Columbia	MD	21044	thatcherlaura@gmail.com	12	
Dominic	Tiburzi	5147 Darting Bird Ln	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Theresa	Tiburzi	5147 Darting Bird Ln	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Marlena	Von Hagel	5431 Hildebrand Ct	Columbia	MD	21046		12	
Jacoba	Weithoner	4190 Dorsey Hall Dr, #1	Ellicott City	MD	21042	sweithoner49@gmail.com	12	
Harold	White	10783 McGregor Dr	Columbia	MD	21044	haroldwhite@hotmail.com	12	
Carol	White	10783 McGregor Dr	Columbia	MD	21044	cmwhite214@hotmail.com	12	
Leda	Zaron	6089 Covington Rd	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Walter	Zaron	6089 Covington Rd	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Carolyn	Cradler	5076 Blacksmith Drive	Columbia	MD	21044	carolyncradler09@gmail.com	12	
Linda	Eisenberg	10417 Blue Arrow Court	Columbia	MD	21044	eisenbhouse@gmail.com	12	
Anne	Gould	6277 Audubon Drive, Columbia, M	Columbia	MD	21044	aigould@comcast.net	12	
MaryAnn	Gregory	5400 Vantage Point Road , Apt. P	Columbia	MD	21044-2796	maryann57ucc@gmail.com	12	
Mary Anne	Newkirk	5352 Smooth Meadow Way #1	Columbia	MD	21044	newkirkcmt@verizon.net	12	
Catherine	Nuala	11048 Berry Pick Lane	Columbia	MD	21044	oge23chukur@gmail.com	12	
Arthur	Trush	6060 Wild Ginger Ct	Columbia	MD	21044		12	
Diane	Swanson	10085 Windstream Dr Apt 1	Columbia	MD	21044-2549	tdatswanson@hotmail.com	12	
Barton	Baisley	4618 Dower Dr	Ellicott City	MD	21043-6406	barton234@verizon.net	12	
Ann	Smith	207 Glenmore Ave	Catonsville	MD	21228-4317	avsmith123@gmail.com	12	
James	Herman	717 Maiden Choice Ln Apt 308	Catonsville	MD	21228-6125	jherman14@verizon.net	12	
Natalie	Rook	10101 Governor Warfield Pkwy	Columbia	MD	21044-3352	nrook1972@gmail.com	12	
Alan and Dana	Gruber	16 Montrose Manor Ct Apt A	Catonsville	MD	21228-5044	gadse@hotmail.com	12	
Dorothy	Dewell	306 Ingleside Ave Apt 2A	Catonsville	MD	21228-4464	dottydewell@gmail.com	12	

Kimberly	Sparklin	1 Stanley Dr	Baltimore	MD	21228-5046	kimsparklin@gmail.com	12	
Evelia	Sosa	5044 Beatrice Way	Columbia	MD	21044-1302	marpesiapetreaus2@gmail.com	12	
Paulette	Hammond	719 Maiden Choice Ln Apt	Catonsville	MD	21228-6236	phamm001@earthlink.net	12	
Pratik	Bhandari	5117 W Running Brook Rd	Columbia	MD	21044-1523	bhandarp@gmail.com	12	
Richard	Voelkel	719 Maiden Choice Ln Apt	Catonsville	MD	21228-6225	voelkeldi@verizon.net	12	
Tony	Raymond	973 Circle Dr	Baltimore	MD	21227-2323	traymond51@hotmail.com	12	
Kristin	Davis	5072 Southern Star Ter	Columbia	MD	21044-1293	ki_davis@hotmail.com	12	
Alan	Weiskott	12290 Green Meadow Dr	Columbia	MD	21044-2888	astroland22@verizon.net	12	
Mike	Bullinger	1825 Palo Cir	Halethorpe	MD	21227-4909	mbullinger1234@comcast.net	12	
Laura	Hollister	8582 Hayshed Ln	Columbia	MD	21045-2614	hollisterlaura@yahoo.com	12	
Markella	Meiller	1020 Grovehill Rd	Halethorpe	MD	21227-3802	mimeiller1001@icloud.com	12	
George and Fran	Alderson	112 Hilton Ave.	Catonsville	MD	21228	george7096@verizon.net	12	
K	Alsbrooks	8 Lanhill Ct	Halethorpe	MD	21227	mrs.killian8@gmail.com	12	
Vail	Anderson	27 N Rolling Road	Catonsville	MD	21228	vailanderson1004@gmail.com	12	
Mary Ann	Barry	5464 Wild Lilac	Columbia	MD	21045	mabarry4@comcast.net	12	
Liz	Bobo	5561 Suffield Ct.	Columbia	MD	21044	lizbobo@comcast.net	12	
Sherry	Bosley	4020 Macalpine Court	Ellicott City	MD	21042	sherry734@berizon.net	12	
Ethel	Brandt	10577 tolling clock way	Columbia	MD	21044	ebrandt7@yahoo.com	12	
Cathy	Brookman	108 Newburg Ave	Catonsville	MD	21228	brookman1@gmail.com	12	
Mary	Buchanan	300 Concert Way	Catonsville	MD	21228	maryhb3820@gmail.com	12	
Sue	Capozzi	517 HILTON AVE	Catonsville	MD	21228	suecdzac@gmail.com	12	
JILL	Christianson	10715 Autumn Splendor Dr	Columbia	MD	21044	jillchristianson2025@gmail.com	12	
Maria	Ciarrocchi	8377 Montgomery Run Rd, Apt	Ellicott City	MD	21043	meciarrocchi@loyola.edu	12	
Anna Marie	Ciarrocchi	719 Maiden Choice Ln. HR 609	Catonsville	MD	21228	amciarr@gmail.com	12	
Laura	Cleary	205 rosewood ave	Catonsville	MD	21228	boardgamesrule@gmail.com	12	
Leslie	Coombs	102 N. Beechwood Ave.	Catonsville	MD	21228	gardendancer26@gmail.com	12	
K	Crandell	9052 Queen Maria Ct	Columbia	MD	21045	kencrandell@yahoo.com	12	
Herbert	Cromwell	6023 Ivy League Dr	Catonsville	MD	21228	landhcromeagle@aol.com	12	
Margaret	Cummings	610 Oak Hill Rd	Catonsville	MD	21228	pghpeg@comcast.net	12	
Christine	Desmond	719 maiden Choice Lane	Catonsville	MD	21228	cmdesmond7@gmail.com	12	
Paul	Dongarra	11 Forest Dr.	Catonsville	MD	21228	paul@paulforcouncil.org	12	
Rosemarie	Eicker	618 WARWICK RD	Baltimore	MD	21229-4707	dblbikes@aol.com	12	
Susannah	Feldman	4951 West Running Brook Rd	Columbia	MD	21044	sfeldman@towson.edu	12	
David	Glaser	5188 Even Star Place	Columbia	MD	21044	david@vogelglaser.com	12	
Rabbi Susan	Grossman	6525 Freetown road	Columbia	MD	21044	rabiima@verizon.net	12	
Christopher	Grybauskas	115 Fairfield	Catonsville	MD	21228	chrisgrybauskas@gmail.com	12	
Deven	Hafiz	705 Hunter Way	Catonsville	MD	21228	devenhafiz@gmail.com	12	
Paulette	Hammond	719 Maiden Choice Lane HR	Baltimore	MD	21228	phamm001@earthlink.net	12	
MaryKate	Hannah	107 north beechwood ave	Catonsville	MD	21228	238marykate@gmail.com	12	
Jen	Hayashi	5062 Whetstone Road	Columbia	MD	21044	calamityjen69@comcast.net	12	
Jerry	Hazelwood	204 Osborne Avenue	Catonsville	MD	21228	jerrywayneh99@gmail.com	12	
Patricia	Heidel	6060 Wild Ginger Ct	Columbia	MD	21044	pheidel1@verizon.net	12	
Robin	Hessey	10768 McGregor Drive	Columbia	MD	21044	rmhessey@gmail.com	12	
Alex	Horn	10509 Tolling Clock Way	Columbia	MD	21044	alexander.horn1919@gmail.com	12	
Crystal	Konny	11605 Dark Fire Way	Columbia	MD	21044	cgkonny@gmail.com	12	
William	Kulp	1918 Rollingwood Rd	Catonsville	MD	21228-4828	wakulp@comcast.net	12	

Margaret	LaFon	10101 Governor Warfield Pkwy #000	Columbia	MD	21044	margaretlafon@gmail.com	12	
Glenn	Lovelace	5008 Tulip ave	Halethorpe	MD	21227	glenn.lovelace@gmail.com	12	
Stephanie	Lyon	5400 VANTAGE POINT RD APT 000	Columbia	MD	21044	stephanielyon@comcast.net	12	
Lois	M McClave	10530 Cross Fox Ln B2	Columbia	MD	21044	lmmcllave@gmail.com	12	
Rachael	Mady	4870 Dorsey Hall Drive, Unit 8	Ellicott City	MD	21042	rachael.mady@gmail.com	12	
Sarah Claire	Matheny	5151 DARTING BIRD LN	Columbia	MD	21044-1503	scmatheny@gmail.com	12	
Margaret	McMillan	426 WESTSHIRE DR	Catonsville	MD	21228	pegmcmillan4@gmail.com	12	
Kevin	Mercer	9 N Beaumont Ave	Catonsville	MD	21228-4402	buildsource@msn.com	12	
Phyllis	Nash	10771 mcgregor dr	Columbia	MD	21044	phylynash@gmail.com	12	
Mary	Northen	204 Rollingfield Rd	Catonsville	MD	21228	mbnorthen@gmail.com	12	
Lindsey	Sands	10906 Cedar Oaks Lane	Columbia	MD	21044	lindzsandz@gmail.com	12	
Evelyn	Sangree	10 Osborne Ave.	Catonsville	MD	21228	ev.sangree@gmail.com	12	
Dori	Schatell	409 S. Rolling Road	Catonsville	MD	21228	dschatell@gmail.com	12	
Charles	Scott	5681 Thicket Lane	Columbia	MD	21044	cscott@loyola.edu	12	
Riya	Sharma	6023 Joseph Scott Drive	Elkridge	MD	21075	28riya@gmail.com	12	
Betsy	Singer	6180 Devon Dr.	Columbia	MD	21044	betsysingermarcus@gmail.com	12	
Phyllis	Skillman	10085 Windstream Dr Apt 5	Columbia	MD	21044	phyllisskillman@verizon.net	12	
Robin	Slaw	1019 Grovehill Rd	Halethorpe	MD	21227	slaw.robin@gmail.com	12	
Ann	SMITH-REISER	5538 Windsun Court	Columbia	MD	21045	areiser1@comcast.net	12	
Mark	Southerland	6135 Llanfair Drive	Columbia	MD	21044	mark.t.southerland@gmail.com	12	
Timothy	Sparklin	1 Stanley Drive	Catonsville	MD	21228	Tsparklin@gmail.com	12	
Audrey	Suhr	6021 Old Lawyers Hill Road	Elkridge	MD	21075	asuhr@comcast.net	12	
Diane	Swanson	10085 Windstream Dr.	Columbia	MD	21044	tdatswanson@hotmail.com	12	
Martin	Tewksbury	719 Maiden Choice Lane	Catonsville	MD	21228	grampatewks2@gmail.com	12	
Lindsay	Thompson	9 N Beaumont Ave	Catonsville	MD	21228	mlthompson1@msn.com	12	
Wendel	Thompson	707 Maiden Choice Lane	Catonsville	MD	21228	wendelth@yahoo.com	12	
Marge	Trenkle	702 Eastshire Dr	Catonsville	MD	21228	m.trenkle@verizon.net	12	
Ted	Van Allen	10768 McGregor Drive	Columbia	MD	21044	columbiated@gmail.com	12	
Katherine	Wilkins	10651 Gramercy PI Unit 257	Columbia	MD	21044	kxw116@gmail.com	12	
Ann	Wing	5400 Vantage Point Rd, 214	Columbia	MD	21044	annwings1@gmail.com	12	
thomas	wing	5400 Vantage Point Rd, APT 214	Columbia	MD	21044	tomwing@comcast.net	12	
Henry	Zwally	4029 chatham rd ellicott city	Ellicott City	MD	21042	hjz3rhcp@gmail.com	12	
David	Dittman	6318 Wimbledon Ct	Elkridge	MD	21075-5900	davedittman@msn.com	13	This is too often overlooked when deciding environmental impact.
RoseMarie	Meservey	9447 Brett Ln	Columbia	MD	21045-4407	rmmeserv@gmail.com	13	Please vote for a cleaner environment for ALL Marylanders.
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!
Carolyn	Parsa	7649 Woodstream Way	Laurel	MD	20723-1163	carolyn.parsa@mdsierra.org	13	It is very important to put into our constitution that every Maryland resident has standing in the fight for a clean and healthy environment.
Esperanza	Airoyo	6346 Tamar Dr	Columbia	MD	21045		13	
Juana	Aquine	8415 Hazelwood Ct	Jessup	MD	20794		13	
Clelus	Asike	9013 Ina Ct	Columbia	MD	21045	asike3@yahoo.com	13	
Chineto	Asike	9013 Ina Ct	Columbia	MD	21045	nelou3@yahoo.com	13	
Paulette	Astete	9264 Brush Run	Columbia	MD	21045	paulette.astete@outlook.com	13	
Frank	Attard	5434 Phelps Luck Dr	Columbia	MD	21045	attard@rocketmail.com	13	
Cathy	Barth	6337 Red Haven Rd	Columbia	MD	21045		13	

Bob	Bartolo	9570 Longlook Ln	Columbia	MD	21045	bobsadj@aol.com	13
Brendan	Bassett	5262 Pine Bark Ct	Columbia	MD	21045	bassettfam42@gmail.com	13
Patricia	Bennet	11694 Chase St	Fulton	MD	20952	pabl3456@gmail.com	13
Mary	Bielefeld	7014 Folded Palm	Columbia	MD	21045	mebielefeld10@gmail.com	13
Walter	Billera	12315 Carol Dr	Fulton	MD	20759		13
Janet	Bowen	9659 Golden Rod Path	Columbia	MD	21046	janetbowen@aol.com	13
Frank	Braxton	5656 Stevens Forest Rd #149	Columbia	MD	21044		13
Jean	Brent	7059 Long View Rd	Columbia	MD	21044		13
Lorien	Brown	6115 Little Foxes Run	Columbia	MD	21045	lorienbrown@yahoo.com	13
Barbara	Caceda	7042 Melting Shadows Ln	Columbia	MD	21045		13
Sebastian	Camargo	8013 Keeton Rd	Elkridge	MD	21075		13
Regina	Cook	8820 Shining Oceans Way	Columbia	MD	21045		13
Bobbe	Cooper	7230 Eden Brook Dr #201	Columbia	MD	21046		13
Carolyn	Crooks	8761 Guilford Rd	Columbia	MD	21046	cs.crooks@hohtmail.com	13
Marcoe	D'Arcapellis	9766 Polished Stone	Columbia	MD	21046		13
Beth	Debeson	5412 Luckpenny Pl	Columbia	MD	21045	bsemerab@gmail.com	13
Joel	Diaz	6983 Bendbough Ct	Columbia	MD	21045	nalumsan@outlook.com	13
Leni	Diaz	6983 Bendbough Ct	Columbia	MD	21045	deaffd04@yahoo.com	13
Daniel	Duckworth	7515 Hearthside Way #434	Elkridge	MD	21075	jeff4748@gmail.com	13
Teresa	Eberhardt	9625 Sea Shadow	Columbia	MD	21046	tracey@everhardtfam.com	13
Ejitor	Ezekine	8348 Silver Trumpet Pl	Columbia	MD	21045	ejitor.ezekine@gmail.com	13
Bernard	Freland	6425 Skyward Ct	Columbia	MD	21045		13
Juan	Fuentes	8108 Tamar Dr	Columbia	MD	21045		13
Jorge	Fuentes	8108 Tamar Dr	Columbia	MD	21045		13
Juliana	Garcia	6414 Waveland Way	Columbia	MD	21045	lukie.garcia@verizon.net	13
Noel	Garcia	6414 Waveland Way	Columbia	MD	21045	nogarcia@aol.com	13
Grena	Garcia	8013 Keeton Rd	Elkridge	MD	21075		13
William	Gaughan	6301 Red Haven Rd	Columbia	MD	21045	clarkg272@gmail.com	13
Thomas	Ghirardelli	6504 Hazel Thicket Dr	Columbia	MD	21044	tghirard@verizon.net	13
Judy	Ghirardelli	6504 Hazel Thicket Dr	Columbia	MD	21044		13
Aaron	Glezgarber	5412 Luckpenny Pl	Columbia	MD	21045	bsemerab@gmail.com	13
Deborah	Greenberger	11414 Iager Blvd	Fulton	MD	20759		13
Karen	Greene	10138 Goodin Cir	Columbia	MD	21046		13
Emmanuel	Happy	6127 Starburn Path	Columbia	MD	21045		13
Iris	Harley	9833 Rainleaf Ct	Columbia	MD	21046		13
Martine	Howore	9007 Majors	Columbia	MD	21045	martnehowore27@gmail.com	13
Brenda	Hussey-Gardner	12208 Linden Linthicum Ln	Clarksville	MD	21029		13
Robert	Johnson	6425 Four Foot Trl	Columbia	MD	21045		13
Mary	Last	6473 Skyward Ct	Columbia	MD	21045		13
Howard	Last	6473 Skyward Ct	Columbia	MD	21045		13
Stephanie	Laues	10557 Glen Hannah Dr	Laurel	MD	20723	flymama727@gmail.com	13
Grace	Lee	5365 Racegate Run	Columbia	MD	21045		13
Yvette	Lee	9415 Merryrest Rd	Columbia	MD	21045	yvlh20@hotmail.com	13
Harry	Lis	7317 Farthest Thunder Ct	Columbia	MD	21046	harrylis@comcast.net	13
Sarah	Lutterod	8732 Endless Ocean Way	Columbia	MD	21045		13
Mike	Lynch	7129 Rivers View Ct	Columbia	MD	21044	mikelynch232@gmail.com	13

Lucie	Lynch	7129 Rivers View Ct	Columbia	MD	21045	lucie.reohomes@gmail.com	13	
Jim	MacDonald	6052 Tamar Dr	Columbia	MD	21045		13	
Irene	MacDonald	6052 Tamar Dr	Columbia	MD	21045		13	
Mary	Marks	9533 Pamplona Rd	Columbia	MD	21045	marymarks@gmail.com	13	
Kathleen	McCaig	7514 Red Cravat Ct	Columbia	MD	21046		13	
Maria	McLoud	10576 Hunters Way	Laurel	MD	20723	hoyamda@gmail.com	13	
Pedro	Mendez	9459 Macomber Ln	Columbia	MD	21045		13	
Stephen	Merck	7345 Narrow Wind Way	Columbia	MD	21046		13	
Sandra	Merrill	6715 Second Morning Ct	Columbia	MD	21045	asandramerrill92@gmail.com	13	
Oliver	Millego	9239 Perfect Hour	Columbia	MD	21045	omillogo124@hotmail.com	13	
Jacqueline	Moore	9414 Merryrest Rd	Columbia	MD	21045		13	
Misla	Morgane	9264 Brush Run	Columbia	MD	21045	misla.29_n@hotmail.com	13	
Irene	Murphy	9485 Honeysalt Row	Columbia	MD	21045		13	
Patrick	Murphy	9485 Honeysalt Row	Columbia	MD	21045		13	
Mike	Murray	9856 Wilderness Ln	Laurel	MD	20723		13	
Marilena	Murray	9856 Wilderness Ln	Laurel	MD	20723		13	
Coragela	Naugus	9438 Glen Ridge Dr	Laurel	MD	20723		13	
Duong	Nyoujen	6444 Deep Calm	Columbia	MD	21045		13	
Michael	O'Donnel	5626 Steven Forest Rd	Columbia	MD	21045	stafmusicrc@verizon.net	13	
Michal	Pazw	6402 White Peach Pl	Columbia	MD	21045		13	
Anne	Pillow	7147 Natures Rd	Columbia	MD	21046	malpillow@gmail.com	13	
William	Pillow	7147 Natures Rd	Columbia	MD	21046	wpillow@bellsouth.net	13	
Maria	Poppe	5126 Pepple Ct	Columbia	MD	21045	Waldemaria7@aol.com	13	
Mary	Price	9254 Pigeonwing Pl	Columbia	MD	21045		13	
Joan	Rebholz	6148 Gate Sill	Columbia	MD	21045		13	
Nicole	Robinson-Ezekin	8348 Silver Trumpet Pl	Columbia	MD	21045	nrobinson87@gmail.com	13	
Kevin	Rodriaunts	6027 Charles Edward Ter	Columbia	MD	21045		13	
Mike	Rodriguez	7305 Farthest Thunder Ct	Columbia	MD	21046		13	
Janet	Rogire	9459 Macomber Ln	Columbia	MD	21045		13	
Aaron	Souza	5900 Millrace Ct	Columbia	MD	21045		13	
John	Spain	6909 Raven Ln	Columbia	MD	21044		13	
Monica	Spain	6909 Raven Ln	Columbia	MD	21044		13	
Keith	Spandler	6277 Loveknot Pl	Columbia	MD	21045		13	
Carle	Spranklin	6277 Loveknot Pl	Columbia	MD	21045	scpranklin@verizon.net	13	
Nancy	Striler	6342 Windharp Way	Columbia	MD	21045		13	
Doris	Tansill	9659 Basket Ring Rd #2	Columbia	MD	21045		13	
Wayne	Thalasinios	6271 Dawn Day Dr	Columbia	MD	21045		13	
Ngeh	Toyang	6820 Little Brook Ct	Elkridge	MD	21075		13	
Eileen	Tydlacka	6746 Sewells Orchard Dr	Columbia	MD	21045	ec.tydlacka@verizon.net	13	
Jerry	Tydlacka	6746 Sewells Orchard Dr	Columbia	MD	21045	jerry.tydlacka@verizon.net	13	
Nina	Valdize	9331 Ripplestir Pl	Columbia	MD	21045		13	
Reba	Vestat	8470 Savage Guilford Rd	Savage	MD	20763		13	
Lisa	Wilson	8854 Blue Sea Dr	Columbia	MD	21046	lisawilsonbergmann@gmail.com	13	
Patrick	Winters	6912 Annabel Ct	Columbia	MD	21044		13	
Joanne	Winters	6912 Annabel Ct	Columbia	MD	21044		13	
Kathryn	Wisniewski	6157 Forty Winks Way	Columbia	MD	21045		13	

Joanne	Wnters	6912 Annabel Cr	Columbia	MD	21044		13
Kae Ann	Wuestman	7245 Swan Point Way	Columbia	MD	21045	rtwuestman@gmail.com	13
Jim	Alvey	5489 Bright Hawk Ct	Columbia	MD	21045	jimalv21045@gmail.com	13
Caela	Barry	8774 Cloudleap Ct	Columbia	MD	21045	caebarry@gmail.com	13
Erin	Cutts	5409 Lightning View Rd	Columbia	MD	21045	erin.m.cutts@gmail.com	13
Tierney	Fine	6128 Karas Walk	Elkridge	MD	21075	tfine@umd.edu	13
Amy	Jones	5990 Jacobs Ladder	Columbia	MD	21045	homewoae@yahoo.com	13
Carla	Miller	9506 Lady Bug Row	Columbia	MD	21046	cmiller@uucr.org	13
Mindy	Sperling	9537 Sea Shadow	Columbia	MD	21046-2060	mindysperling1221@gmail.com	13
Reba	Vestat	8470 Savage Guilford Road	Savage	MD	20763	rebanvestat@yahoo.com	13
Caitlin	Welsh	13271 Styer Ct	Highland	MD	20777-9754	caleebean@aol.com	13
Jim	Fitz	8421 Oak Bush Ter	Columbia	MD	21045-5646	jimboyfitz@msn.com	13
Kristin	Cook	6514 Carlinda Ave	Columbia	MD	21046-1020	kristingamzoncook@gmail.com	13
Stephanie	Hickey	9472 Old Deep Ct	Columbia	MD	21045-3221	steffm321@gmail.com	13
James	Fitzgerald	8421 Oak Bush Ter	Columbia	MD	21045-5646	jimboyfitz721@gmail.com	13
Chris	Bryant	9877 Lyon Ave	Laurel	MD	20723-1721	christhunderroadbryant@gmail.com	13
Mary	Chiu	7974 Savage Guilford Rd	Jessup	MD	20794-9024	mnmnchiu@gmail.com	13
Barbara	Collins	7509 Waterlily Way	Columbia	MD	21046-1422	barbaracollins36@gmail.com	13
Vincent	Amatrudo	7728 Twin Oaks Way	Laurel	MD	20723-1182	vinceamatrudo@yahoo.com	13
Jeryl	Baker	7551 Summer Leave Ln	Columbia	MD	21046-2472	jerylbaker@gmail.com	13
Janna	Rus	8703 Sage Brush Way	Columbia	MD	21045-5967	jrus410@gmail.com	13
Kristie	Garcia	9007 Phillip Dorsey Way	Columbia	MD	21045-5149	kristielgarcia22@gmail.com	13
Ryan	Hearty	9607 Rocksparkle Row	Columbia	MD	21045-4337	rhearty1@gmail.com	13
Tammy	Spengler	5218 Wood Stove Ln	Columbia	MD	21045-1915	tammy424@me.com	13
Judith	Kowitt	7136 Lasting Light Way	Columbia	MD	21045-5137	arikowitt@yahoo.com	13
Andrea	Lewinter	5371 5 Fingers Way	Columbia	MD	21045-2352	andrealewinter@cs.com	13
Lisa	Krausz	6109 Trackless Sea Ct	Clarksville	MD	21029-2909	lialkrausz@comcast.net	13
Kristopher	Baptiste	8407 Flowering Cherry Ln	Laurel	MD	20723-1084	baptiste.kresto@yahoo.com	13
Amy	Rottier	6129 Syracuse Ct	Clarksville	MD	21029-1549	amyrottier@gmail.com	13
Carl	Latkin	6062 Red Clover Ln	Clarksville	MD	21029-1272	clatkin2000@gmail.com	13
Ferold	Torchenot	7080 Cradlerock Way Apt 214	Columbia	MD	21045-4865	feroldtorchenot@gmail.com	13
Wendy	Alberg	6509 Carlinda Ave	Columbia	MD	21046	wendy.alberg@gmail.com	13
Lawrence	Bachman	9426 N Penfield Rd	Columbia	MD	21045	lbfm57@gmail.com	13
Zachary	Beever	7010 Southmoor Street, Apt. 1102	Hanover	MD	21076	zach.beever@gmail.com	13
Kunal	Chitalia	11305 Bishops Gate Ln	Laurel	MD	20723	kunalchitalia@gmail.com	13
Meghan	Cole	9266 Grape Wine Court	Columbia	MD	21045	mchenry.meghan@gmail.com	13
Katherine	Colston	9553 Red Apple Lane	Columbia	MD	21046	kwcolston@aol.com	13
Christine	Crandell	9052	Columbia	MD	21045	gencrandell@yahoo.com	13
N Heather	Dorst	7242 Lasting Light Way	Columbia	MD	21045	heatherdorst@gmail.com	13
Ward	Ebert	7366 Hallmark Rd	Clarksville	MD	21029	wardebort@verizon.net	13
Anna	Ellsworth	7010 Southmoor Street 1401	Hanover	MD	21076	annaxellsworth@gmail.com	13
Tracy	Eve	7323 Narrow Wind Way	Columbia	MD	21046	tracy.eve.01@gmail.com	13
Chelle	Ginsburg	5413 Spindrift Place	Columbia	MD	21045	chellerg@verizon.net	13
Charlie	Goedeke	10544 Patuxent Ridge Way	Laurel	MD	20723	tooldude@me.com	13
EDWIN	GOULD	6505 Carlinda Av	Columbia	MD	21046	pottergoulddeee@gmail.com	13
Wendy	Hall	9100 Bellwart Way	Columbia	MD	21045	wlfh18@yahoo.com	13

Suzanne	Henig	9533 White Spring Way	Columbia	MD	21046-2063	henig3@gmail.com	13	
Ernest	Hilsenrath	11248-2 Chase Street	Fulton	MD	20759	ehilsenrath@verizon.net	13	
Gail	Holm	10081 Fair Beauty	Columbia	MD	21046	gailholm@gmail.com	13	
Albert	Holm	10081 Fair Beauty	Columbia	MD	21046-1315	holm_albert@yahoo.com	13	
Stuart	Irby	6145 Waiting Spg	Columbia	MD	21045	silenceisconsent@verizon.net	13	
Alexis	Irby	6145, Waiting Spring	Columbia	MD	21045	alexis.irby3@gmail.com	13	
Ann Marie	Irby	6145 WAITING SPG	Columbia	MD	21045	thelearningcottage@verizon.net	13	
Steven	Jamar	9213 Osprey Ct	Columbia	MD	21045	stevenjamar@gmail.com	13	
Kathy	Jordan	8005 Jane Garth	Jessup	MD	20794	travelkj@aol.com	13	
PHYLLIS	KELLEY	5709 Whistling Winds Walk	Clarksville	MD	21029	thekelleyfamily4@verizon.net	13	
Susan	Krehbiel	7325 Brookview Road, Unit 207	Elkridge	MD	21075	skrehbiel@baltimorepresbytery.org	13	
Amy	Lettman	8021 Aladdin Dr	Laurel	MD	20723	amylettman@hotmail.com	13	
yonta	lyness	7433 Setting Sun Way	Columbia	MD	21046	yonta@comcast.net	13	
John	McKitterick	10018 Maple Ave	Columbia	MD	21046-1032	john.mckitterick@gmail.com	13	
Evelyn	Mogren	5601 Thunder Hill Rd Columbia,	Columbia	MD	21045	calibercarvings@verizon.net	13	
Stacy	Mogren	5601 Thunder Hill Rd	Columbia	MD	21045	smallercow@yahoo.com	13	
Susan	Moody	9506 Red Apple Lane	Columbia	MD	21046	susanmoody822@gmail.com	13	
Frank	Morgan	9871 Softwater Way	Columbia	MD	21046	fmorgan@hawk.iit.edu	13	
BRIAN	MOYER	6417 White Peach Place	Columbia	MD	21045	bmoyer36@yahoo.com	13	
sue	muller	9435 granite hill	Columbia	MD	21046	green12205@gmail.com	13	
Alexandra	Nader	9644 Hastings Drive	Columbia	MD	21046	sasha.nader@gmail.com	13	
KAREN	OSTEEN	10817 Graeoch Rd	Laurel	MD	20723	kposteen@comcast.net	13	
Heidi	Osterman	7512 Flamewood Drive	Clarksville	MD	21029	hjoesterman@gmail.com	13	
Kathleen	Parker	5921 Tamar Dr. #3	Glen Burnie	MD	21045	krparker.4487@gmail.com	13	
Kristin	Parrish	7525 Rain Flower Way	Columbia	MD	21046	klparrish74@gmail.com	13	
Alice	Pham	9650 Sandlight Ct	Columbia	MD	21046	alicepham@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 Graeoch 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	
Bindiya	vaishnav	6001 Georgetown Ct	Clarksville	MD	21029	bindiya02@gmail.com	13	
Shelley	Von Hagen-Jame	9213 Osprey Court, Columbia MD	Columbia	MD	21045	shelleyvhj@gmail.com	13	
Joyce	Warner-Burke	6274 Gay Topaz	Columbia	MD	21045	jcwarnerburke@gmail.com	13	
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	eneshamiller@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!
Haley	Crim	17613 Norwood Rd	Sandy Spring	MD	20860	haleycrim18@gmail.com	14	
Cheryl	Lammy	13287, Musicmaster Drive	Silver Spring	MD	20904	clammy6633@aol.com	14	
Lisa	Marshall	9700 New Church Steet, 9800 M	Damascus	MD	20872	lisa.marshall@damascusumc.org	14	
Camilo	Reynolds-Domin	13616 Colefair Drive	Silver Spring	MD	20904	creynolds-dominguez@umaryland.ed	14	
Nora	Swisher	14652 Woonsocket Dr	Silver Spring	MD	20905	noswisher@gmail.com	14	
Kendal	Garcia	15610 Santini Rd	Burtonsville	MD	20866	kendalgarcia@hotmail.com	14	
Patrick	Okenkuto	2148 Harlequin Ter	Silver Spring	MD	20904		14	
Franciel	Ikeji	13700 Fairridge Dr	Silver Spring	MD	20904		14	
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 Castleleigh 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	
Naheed	John	16670 Emory Ln	Rockville	MD	20853-1230	nrdjohn10@gmail.com	14	
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 2244 Countryside Drive, Silver Spring	Olney	MD	20832	elaine2810@gmail.com	14	
Katha	Lacy	15101 Briarcliff Manor Way	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.
Jill	Purdy	12009 Blackberry Ter	Gaithersburg	MD	20878	purdy6546@gmail.com	15	It is time to treat the climate crisis as as crisis. I have planted native species and flowers to feed birds and honeybees. So, two neighbors sprayed for mosquitoes, and the honeybees all died.
Kathleen	Horvath	11913 Devilwood Dr	Potomac	MD	20854-3411	katedc1@comcast.net	15	
Ravindra	Agarwal	11204 GREEN WATCH WAY	North Potomac	MD	20878	raviagarwal@juno.com	15	
Helen	Ballew	19109 MUNGER FARM ROAD	Poolesville	MD	20837	helenballew@yahoo.com	15	
Kristin	Cook	9408 Jongroner Ct.	Potomac	MD	20854	kristingamzoncook@gmail.com	15	
Evan	Krichevsky	Copenhaver Drive	Potomac	MD	20854	evank2@aol.com	15	
Lukas	Lightcap	16938 Hillard Street	Poolesville	MD	20837	lukaslightcap@gmail.com	15	
David	Quintanilla	2 War Admiral Ct	North Potomac	MD	20878		15	
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	
Ravindra	Agarwal	11204 Green Watch Way	North Potomac	MD	20878-2569	anjaliiraviagarwal@gmail.com	15	
Anjali	Agarwal	11204 Green Watch Way	North Potomac	MD	20878-2569	anjaliiraviagarwal@gmail.com	15	
Anna	Weitzman	8704 Hidden Hill Ln	Potomac	MD	20854-4227	bonnetia@gmail.com	15	
Marian	Feldman	14616 Boat House Way	North Potomac	MD	20878-4231	marianf1158@gmail.com	15	
Dan	Leggett	24240 Peach Tree Rd	Clarksburg	MD	20871-9112	popeyewnr@gmail.com	15	
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	
Sarah	Ederly	14741 Dufief Mill Rd	North Potomac	MD	20878-2556	sedery@terpmail.umd.edu	15	
Paula	Sayers	19985 Wild Cherry Ln	Germantown	MD	20874-1015	salsay@verizon.net	15	
Ravindra	Agarwal	green watch way gaythersbrg m d	Gaithersburg	MD	20878	raviagarwal@juno.com	15	
Joyce	Bailey	21730 Beallsville Rd	Barnesville	MD	20838	Baileyjn52@comcast.net	15	
Chris	Bailey	16525 Comus Rd	Dickerson	MD	20842	lindykid6996@yahoo.com	15	
ellie	cowen	12504 split creek ct	Gaithersburg	MD	20878	bubbylover33@gmail.com	15	
Helen	Dalton	10336 Democracy e	Potomac	MD	20854	kgvhelen@verizon.net	15	
Moira	Davenport	11700 Flints Grove Ln	Gaithersburg	MD	20878	moiradavenport@gmail.com	15	
geralyn	drymalski	19946 lake park dr	Germantown	MD	20874	geri.drymalski@juno.com	15	
Irene	Eckstrand	13717 Valley Dr	Rockville	MD	20850	ieckstrand@verizon.net	15	

Sarah	Ederly	14741 Dufief Mill Road	Gaithersburg	MD	20878	sedery@terpmail.umd.edu	15	
Lisa	Fuller	11112 Lake Breeze Dr	Gaithersburg	MD	20878	llf0701@gmail.com	15	
Loretta	Gavin	18321 McKernon Way	Poolesville	MD	20837	lorrie.gavin@gmail.com	15	
Lois	Geller	14960 Dufief Dr	Gaithersburg	MD	20878	loisgeller@verizon.net	15	
Joan	Goldstein	12605 EXCHANGE CT N	Potomac	MD	20854	djg21@msn.com	15	
R	Haley	Coddle Habor Lane	Potomac	MD	20854	rhaley@wmata.com	15	
Shannon	Helfert	9 Hackett Ct	Poolesville	MD	20837	jshelfert@hotmail.com	15	
meghana	kotraiah	11713 Flints Grove Lane	Gaithersburg	MD	20878	meghana.kot55@gmail.com	15	
Zander	Leff	15415 Comus Rd	Clarksburg	MD	20871	arkthdragonboy@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	
Vien	Nguyen	14520 Cartwright Way	Gaithersburg	MD	20878	nguyenv@acoast.com	15	
Andrea	Pfeffer	11220 Freas Drive	Gaithersburg	MD	20878	pepper4@aol.com	15	
JAN	RIEKE	13212 Ridge Drive	Rockville	MD	20850	jrieke@msn.com	15	
E M	Samuelson	20105 Lavender Place	Germantown	MD	20874	evamsam@gmail.com	15	
Molly	Sherman	17410 Ryefield Ct	Dickerson	MD	20842-8807	mollyesherman@gmail.com	15	
Alex	Sherwin	9905 Lambertina Ln	Rockville	MD	20850	aqqsschool@gmail.com	15	
Merikay	Smith	14909 Spring Meadows Drive	Germantown	MD	20874	merikays@verizon.net	15	
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 PI	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	nshaw@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.

Kimberly	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.
Liz	Feldman	4901 Brookeway Dr	Bethesda	MD	20816	feldmanfive@mac.com	16	In 2021, the United Nations reported that unless there are immediate
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	kamilcook@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.
Leslie	Miles	5402 Tuscarawas Rd	Bethesda	MD	20816	lmiles@topsidedc.com	16	Environmental justice is a fundamental right, long ignored and dismis
Ann	Gallagher	5906 Cobalt Rd	Bethesda	MD	20816-1118	agm@saltywaters.org	16	Environmental issues need appropriate constitutional recognition!
Patricia	Friedman	4811 Grantham Ave	Chevy Chase	MD	20815	levinfried@gmail.com	16	
Yasmine	Helbling	7501 Cayuga Ave	Bethesda	MD	20817	helbling.yasmine@gmail.com	16	
Pia	Iolster	8713 Hempstead Ave	Bethesda	MD	20817	piaiolster@gmail.com	16	
Stephen	Melkisetian	4713 S Chelsea Ln	Bethesda	MD	20814		16	
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	
C	Lambert	5900 Johnson Ave	Bethesda	MD	20817-3433	quintonio11@yahoo.com	16	
Gayle	Countryman-Mills	11906 Oden Ct	Rockville	MD	20852-4341	gaylelcm@gmail.com	16	
Kendra	Epstein	5317 King Charles Way	Bethesda	MD	20814-2141	kendrafink@gmail.com	16	
Suzanne	Taylor Dater	12 Sangamore Ct	Bethesda	MD	20816-2509	stdater@gmail.com	16	
Frances	Hickey	7701 Winterberry Pl	Bethesda	MD	20817-4849	fran.hickey@gmail.com	16	
L	Wharton	4978 Sentinel Dr Apt 501	Bethesda	MD	20816-3575	lesliew@eldersclimateaction.org	16	
Todd	Epstein	11305 Struttmann Ter	Rockville	MD	20852-3674	doctae@icloud.com	16	
Diana	Kitt	5511 Charlcote Rd	Bethesda	MD	20817-3735	jakedk1@verizon.net	16	
Nancy	Koran	4960 Fairmont Ave Apt 1001	Bethesda	MD	20814-6280	nancykoran@hotmail.com	16	
E	P	6412 Stratford Rd	Chevy Chase	MD	20815-5319	filmyard@gmail.com	16	
Lauren	Cosgrove	6 Warde Ct	Potomac	MD	20854-4260	obrient5150@gmail.com	16	
Stephen	Foote	5312 Hampden Ln	Bethesda	MD	20814-1247	sfoote.mail@gmail.com	16	
Emma	Weirich	4705 Rosedale Ave	Bethesda	MD	20814-3729	emmaweirich@gmail.com	16	
Robert	Musil	8600 Irvington Ave	Bethesda	MD	20817-3604	bmusil1@yahoo.com	16	
Stu	Simon	4833 Chevy Chase Dr	Chevy Chase	MD	20815-6426	stucpic@gmail.com	16	
Maya	Stantchev	5169 King Charles Way	Bethesda	MD	20814-2150	maya.stantchev@gmail.com	16	
Barbara	Blaylock	6225 Mazwood Rd	Rockville	MD	20852-3527	barbarablalock@gmail.com	16	
Holly	Welch	7811 Gate Post Way	Potomac	MD	20854-1739	hollywelch@verizon.net	16	
Lisa	Lyon	5901 Woodacres Dr	Bethesda	MD	20816-3429	lisahlyon@msn.com	16	
David	Elfin	8206 Bryant Dr	Bethesda	MD	20817-3135	elfind@verizon.net	16	
Edward	Bielaus	6912 Breezewood Ter	Rockville	MD	20852-4324	ljbar@msn.com	16	
Guin	Granite	6806 Tammy Ct	Bethesda	MD	20817-4206	guin.granite@gmail.com	16	
Krista	Kurth	9428 Garden Ct	Potomac	MD	20854-3964	kkurth@comcast.net	16	
Robert	Anderson	5900 Namakagan Rd	Bethesda	MD	20816-2330	robertanderson1@hotmail.com	16	

Jane	Vourlekis	146 Winsome Cir	Bethesda	MD	20814-2163	jvourlek@oberlin.edu	16	
Sandie	Quinn	5704 Rockmere Dr	Bethesda	MD	20816-2448	sandie_quinn@yahoo.com	16	
Joan	Miranowski	5214 Marlyn Dr	Bethesda	MD	20816-1948	joan.miranowski@gmail.com	16	
Olivia	Bartlett	7224 Beacon Ter	Bethesda	MD	20817-1202	oliviabartlett@verizon.net	16	
Bruce	Beehler	6421 Broad St	Bethesda	MD	20816	brucembeehler@gmail.com	16	
Alison	Bennett	10908 PICASSO LN 9707 Old Georgetown Road, Aptb1213	POTOMAC	MD	20854	alison.bennett72@gmail.com	16	
Donald	Berlin	4541 Windsor Lane	Bethesda	MD	20814	donaldberlin36@gmail.com	16	
Marney	Bruce	10201 Grosvenor Place - Apt. 1105	Bethesda	MD	20814-4724	marneyb3@gmail.com	16	
Reba	Carruth	6212 Goodview Street, Bethesda	Rockville	MD	20852	rcarru3@aol.com	16	
Walter	Cohn	6212 Goodview Street	Bethesda	MD	20817	widacohn@icloud.com	16	
Deborah	Cohn	5524 Charlcote Road	Bethesda	MD	20817	deborahcohn@gmail.com	16	
Lynda	DeWitt	6722 Kenwood Forest Ln	Bethesda	MD	20817	dewitt@solarwing.com	16	
Maj-Britt	Dohlie	6213 Stoneham road	Chevy Chase	MD	20815	mdohlie@gmail.com	16	
Gail	Fisher	6402 Ridge Drive 20816	Bethesda	MD	20817	gailfisher@resourcesforchange.com	16	
Hannah	Fox	6806 Gardley Blvd	Bethesda	MD	20817	hannahfox050@gmail.com	16	
Kathryn	Gargurevich	5307 Carlton Street	Bethesda	MD	20816	kmgargurevich@gmail.com	16	
Francesca	Grifo	5307 Carlton Street	Bethesda	MD	20816	francescatgrifo@gmail.com	16	
Luca	Grifo-Hahn	5903 Barbados Place Apt 201	Bethesda	MD	20816	lucagh123@gmail.com	16	
Alejandro	Grimaldi	9209 Cypress Ave	Rockville	MD	20852	alejodude@hotmail.com	16	
John	Gubbings	5307 Carlton St.	Bethesda	MD	20814-2866	kgubbings@verizon.net	16	
William	Hahn	4936 Sentinel Dr Apt 305	Bethesda	MD	20816	wjhahn@me.com	16	
Madeleine	Hahn-Smith	9204 Wilmett Ct	Bethesda	MD	20817	mhahnsmith@gmail.com	16	
Julia	Hananel	5480 Wisconsin Ave	Bethesda	MD	20817	juleshananel@gmail.com	16	
Shayan	Hassani	5401 Nibud Ct	Chevy Chase	MD	20815	mlg116@yahoo.com	16	
William	Immerman	7509 NEVIS RD	Rockville	MD	20853	bill@immerman-inc.com	16	
Jennifer	kawar	6209 Hollins Dr	Bethesda	MD	20817-4741	jennifer_kawar@yahoo.com	16	
David	Kosterlitz	4631 Chestnut Street	Bethesda	MD	20817-2348	david.s.kosterlitz@gmail.com	16	
Diane	Kupelian	9321 Fresno Rd	Bethesda	MD	20814-3723	dianekupelian@gmail.com	16	
Emma	Kurnat-Thoma	9428 Garden Court	Bethesda	MD	20814	thoma6146@msn.com	16	
Krista	Kurth	12500 Park Potomac Ave.	Potomac	MD	20854	kkurth@comcast.net	16	
Karen	Levi	7 Hitching Post Ct	Potomac	MD	20854	Karenlevi1969@gmail.com	16	
Jacqueline	Maloney	8505 Fenway Road	Rockville	MD	20852	jaxitheawesome@gmail.com	16	
Samantha	Malushte	4401 Highland Avenue, Bethesda	Bethesda	MD	20817	sa.malushte@gmail.com	16	
Jill	McKay	4707 Chevy Chase Dr Apt 203, Apt. 203	Bethesda	MD	20814	mckay.jill@gmail.com	16	
Lee	McNair	4713 South Chelsea Lane	Chevy Chase	MD	20815	dragonpern132@gmail.com	16	
Stephen	Melkisetian	4632 South Chelsea Lane	Bethesda	MD	20814-3719	steve@angela.com	16	
Karen	Metchis	5021 Bradley blvd apt 4	Bethesda	MD	20814	karen.metchis@gmail.com	16	
Daniel	Mwangi	5 Froude Circle	Chevy Chase	MD	20815	dankiiru@gmail.com	16	
Catherine	Nelsen	5801 Midhill street	Cabin John	MD	20818	cfrance48@comcast.net	16	
Kaelin	O'Donnell	Midhill	Bethesda	MD	20817	kaelinmaeve@gmail.com	16	
Sarah	O'Donnell	5301 Westbard Circle apt 340	Bethesda	MD	20817	seodonnell21@gmail.com	16	
Geshan	Pathirana	4105 Maryland Ave	Bethesda	MD	20816	geshanpathirana@gmail.com	16	
Rebecca	Petillo	6608 Kenhill Road	Bethesda	MD	20816	rebeccajp44@gmail.com	16	
Ezra	Pine		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	
Tammany	Kramer	5408 Tuscarawas Rd	Bethesda	MD	20816	tammany.kramer@gmail.com	16	
Melinda	Robbins	5605 Albia Rd	Bethesda	MD	20816	melibins@gmsil.com	16	
Helen	Barold	5217 Wissioming Rd	BETHESDA	MD	20816	helen.barold@gmail.com	16	
Gale	Katz	10101 Grosvenor PI	Rockville	MD	20852	gk24688@aol.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.
Madeline	Amalphy	651 Saybrooke Oaks Boulevard	Gaithersburg	MD	20877	radchic05@gmail.com	17	
Monica	Berger	1007 Brice Rd	Rockville	MD	20852	monica@gotthard.org	17	
michael	bucci	114 Woodland Road	Gaithersburg	MD	20877	bucci114@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	
Rev. Dr. Rebekah	Savage	100 Welsh Park Drive	Rockville	MD	20850	rev.rebekah@uucr.org	17	
Adam	Faigen		Rockville	MD	20850		17	
Meghan	Co	803 Baltimore Rd	Rockville	MD	20851		17	
Tara	Rice	353 Market St W Apt 222	Gaithersburg	MD	20878		17	
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 Horners 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	mgntrr@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@iobst.com	17	
Linda	Gore	60 OAK SHADE RD	Gaithersburg	MD	20878-1048	lindagore61@gmail.com	17	
Ben	Harper	708 Beall Ave	Rockville	MD	20850	eponymous_ben@yahoo.com	17	
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	
M	K	9890 Washingtonian Blvd, apt. 507, Gaithersburg, MD	Gaithersburg	MD	20878	mistermilesk@gmail.com	17	
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	AMTYTYCH@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	
Surili	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	

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	jtritnum@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	
Christina	Chang	1001 Rockville Pike	Rockville	MD	20852	housefinch2@gmail.com	17	
Matthew	Vogt	655B Main St	Gaithersburg	MD	20878	matt_vogt@hotmail.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	jjibblaytham@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 on 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.
Holly	Brown	2508 Kimberly St	Silver Spring	MD	20902	downtown82@aol.com	18	
Mirele	Goldsmith	7707 Wisconsin Ave Apt. 912	Bethesda	MD	20814	mirele@markergoldsmith.com	18	
Ethan	Hamza	4719 Saul Rd	Kensington	MD	20895	grabbb.hamza@gmail.com	18	
Susan	Hutner	7020 Bybrook Lane	Chevy Chase	MD	20815	susan.hutner@comcast.net	18	
Maxine	Kumekpor	10001 Connecticut	Kensington	MD	20895	fourteen63@gmail.com	18	

Eileen	Magee	9705 Culver Street	Kensington	MD	20895	eamon5@verizon.net	18
Richard	Marker	7707 Wisconsin Ave	Bethesda	MD	20814	marker@markergoldsmith.com	18
Kit	Mason	1508 Sanford Rd	Silver Spring	MD	20902	kitmason@gmail.com	18
Nona	Olson	10537 Wheatley St	Kensington	MD	20895	lolson2999@aol.com	18
Frank	Sanford	4317 Elm St., Chevy Chase, Man	Chevy Chase	MD	20815	fsanford44@gmail.com	18
Michael	Vanacore	4009 Halsey St	Kensington	MD	20895	pastormichael.pcucc@gmail.com	18
Haydar	Kurban	2904 Hardy Ave	Silver Spring	MD	20902		18
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	donnaalcsawyer@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	Boyersky-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
Liam	Wittert	2311 Arthur Ave	Silver Spring	MD	20902-5601	liam.wittert@gmail.com	18
Paula	Fitz-William	11003 Easecrest Dr	Silver Spring	MD	20902-3506	pposas@gmail.com	18
Teresa	Allred	2278 Georgian Woods Place	Silver Spring	MD	20902	teresala66@yahoo.com	18
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 Lyttonsville Rd. Apt. 816	Silver Spring	MD	20910	deebr6@gmail.com	18
Nadia	Carrell	7917 Chelton Road	Bethesda	MD	20814	carrelln@gmail.com	18
Bailey	Condrey	10205 Parkwood Dr	Kensington	MD	20895	condreybailey@gmail.com	18
Ashley	Del Sole	1021 Duvawn Place	Silver Spring	MD	20902	ashleydelsole@hotmail.com	18
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	
Diane	Wysowski	11308 Palisades Ct	Kensington	MD	20895	wysowskidiane@gmail.com	18	
Natali	Fani-Gonzalez	2213 Parker Ave	Wheaton	MD	20902-1932	natalifanigonzaalez@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.
Anne	Ambler	12505 Kuhl Road	Silver Spring	MD	20902	anambler@gmail.com	19	
Roberta	Campbell	14109 Flint Rock Rd	Rockville	MD	20853	robertamosier@comcast.net	19	
Russel	DeCamp	13423 Keating St.	Rockville	MD	20853	ridecamp2@msn.com	19	
James	Fey	13804 Beacon Hollow Ln	Silver Spring	MD	20906	jimfey@comcast.net	19	
Larissa	Johnson	5109 Norbeck Road	Rockville	MD	20853	larissa.johnson17@gmail.com	19	
Susan	Levine	15100 Interlachen Drive #204	Silver Spring	MD	20906	llevine101@aol.com	19	
James	Togashi	3959 WENDY CT	Silver Spring	MD	20906	jtogashi@hotmail.com	19	
Trinh	Truong	1425 Atwood,Rd	Silver Spring	MD	20906	trinhqt98@yahoo.com	19	
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 Tummore 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	sujob30@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	alkevmar@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	
Maria	Szokolai	14210 Parkvale Rd	Rockville	MD	20853	mnfarkas@yahoo.com	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.
Kristina	Borror	10602 Pinedale Dr	Silver Spring	MD	20901	tina@atscomms.com	20	
Maria	Chafetz	8312 Haddon Drive	Takoma Park	MD	20912	mchafetz@gmail.com	20	
Nina	Jeffries	417 Boston Ave	Takoma Park	MD	20912	nikjeff@umd.edu	20	
Barbara	Knox-Seith	7223, Garland Ave	Takoma Park	MD	20912	bknnoxseith@earthlink.net	20	
Rhonda	Kranz	5 Montgomery Ave	Takoma Park	MD	20912	rhonda2@kranzcons.com	20	
Veronica	Robb	418 Branch Drive	Silver Spring	MD	20901	vrob97@gmail.com	20	
Michele	Sumka	409 Windsor St	Silver Spring	MD	20910	msumka@gmail.com	20	
David	Wood	7925 Sligo Creek Parkway	Takoma Park	MD	20912	davidaxwood@gmail.com	20	
Thomas	Dietsche	412 Silver Spring Ave	Silver Spring	MD	20910		20	
Mary	Morlino	1220 E West Hwy	Silver Spring	MD	20910		20	
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@hsif.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	readjng@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	
Jessica	Castro	7923 EASTERN AVE, APT 506 7401 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVE,	Silver Spring	MD	20910	jrubano1107@gmail.com	20	
Juliana	CHENUE	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	
Diane	Curran	22 Montgomery ave	Takoma Park	MD	20912	dcurran@harmoncurran.com	20	
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	mpeterpan1@gmail.com	20	
Rebecca	Rehr	714 Kerwin Road	Silver Spring	MD	20901	rcrehr@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	
Nathalie	Peter	7411 Glenside Dr	Takoma Park	MD	20912	mpeterpan1@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.
Lillian	Van Rompay	2259 September Dr.	Gambrills	MD	21054	lillian.vanrompay@gmail.com	21	
Renee	Duckworth	15500 Bauer Ln	Laurel	MD	20707		21	
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 2494 Amber Orchard Ct E, Unit 203	Laurel	MD	20707	kvulture@aol.com	21	
Robin	Dax		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 4301 Hartwick Road #3201, Appt 3201B	Odenton	MD	21113	donna_graham@verizon.net	21	
Vyas	Gupta		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	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	anitrn1234@gmail.com	21	
Rebecca	Wallace	604 Carlton Otto lane	Odenton	MD	21113	rebecca.wallace1990@gmail.com	21	
Todd	Larsen	8711 Rhode Island Ave	College Park	MD	20740	toddlarsen_99@yahoo.com	21	
Leo	Shapiro	6907 Rhode Island Ave	College Park	MD	20740	leoshapiro99@gmail.com	21	
Rachel	Kelton	600 Carroll Ave	Laurel	MD	20707	ramkelton@gmail.com	21	
Helen	Kaiser	7107 Wells Pkwy	Hyattsville	MD	20782-1042	helen.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.
Geneen	Massey	4104 Oglethorpe St	Hyattsville	MD	20782	geneenm@gmail.com	22	
Angela	Oddone	54A Ridge Road	Greenbelt	MD	20770	angelamoddonemswlcs@gmail.com	22	
Kathleen	Pape	8217 Canning Ter	Greenbelt	MD	20770-2705	kmc4vd@gmail.com	22	
Nithin	Sivadas	7072 Hanover Parkway	Greenbelt	MD	20770	nithin@bu.edu	22	
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	
Holly	Brevig	8303 58th Ave	College Park	MD	20740	hollyandgenevieve@gmail.com	22	
Alexandra	Brosius	7501 Mandan Rd Apt T2 4004 Kennedy Street,	Greenbelt	MD	20770	alexandra.l.brosius@gmail.com	22	
Robert	Croslin	Hyattsville Maryland	Hyattsville	MD	20781	rcroslin@hyattsville.org	22	
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 5813 Lamont Drive, New Carrollton	Hyattsville	MD	20782	elisabeth.herschbach@gmail.com	22	
Patricia	Jackman	5813 Lamont Drive, New Carrollton	Hyattsville	MD	20784	jjshare@verizon.net	22	
Beth	Kantrowitz	5112 41st Ave Apt 106	Hyattsville	MD	20781	kantrowitz@comcast.net	22	
Ikumi	Kaymaa	5712 Tuckerman St.	Riverdale	MD	20737	ikumikayama@gmail.com	22	
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	
Elizabeth	Twieg	16 Ridge Rd	Greenbelt	MD	20770	waterlilly2199@yahoo.com	22	
Catherine	Turner	6805 40th Ave	University Park	MD	20782	cjrt@juno.com	22	
Walter	Knausenberger	2226 Memphis Lane	Bowie	MD	20715	wijknausen@gmail.com	23	
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	
Anthony	Angion	8800 Admiral Dr	Laurel	MD	20708		23A	

Janet	Gingold	13107 Whiteholm Dr	Upper Marlboro	MD	20774-1831	janet.gingold@mnsierra.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	
Joan	MacDonnell	12207 Wheeling Avenue	UPPER MARLB	MD	20772	joanbenson@earthlink.net	23B	
Nikki	Harris		Bowie	MD	20715		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
Kolapo	Idowu		Bowie	MD	20721		24	
Annette	King	7503 Mountain View Way	Hyattsville	MD	20785		24	
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	Scrivero	12511 Guinvere Road	Glenn Dale	MD	20769	karen.scrivero@gmail.com	24	
Kate	Stewart-Gerry	4704 Heath St. Capitol Heights,	Capitol Heights	MD	20743	c.m.gerry11@gmail.com	24	
Arthuree	Wright	2203 Durbin Court	Bowie	MD	20721	drawright2001@yahoo.com	24	
Roger	Devese	5508 Plata St	Clinton	MD	20735		25	
George	Daniel	1812 Robert Lewis Ave	Upper Marlboro	MD	20774		25	
Aja	Moore		Upper Marlboro	MD	20774		25	
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.
Donovan	Turner	5419 Morris Ave	Suitland	MD	20746		26	
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	SRHCConsulting@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	Ciinton	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	
Cindy	Clark	17600 Horsehead Rd	Brandywine	MD	20613	cindyclark1@gmail.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 Wyld 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	kacopleitch@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	
Anthony	Creamer	9806 Croom Rd	Upper Marlboro	MD	20772		27B	
Ugochukwu	Iteogu		Upper Marlboro	MD	20772		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 risk due to human activities. We need to act now.
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.c	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.c	27C	

Pat	Pease	2315 Vern Road	Prince Frederick	MD	20678	4patpease@gmail.com	27C	
Arthur	wittig	1660 Dares Beach Rd	Prince Frederick	MD	20678		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
Marc	Imlay	2321 Woodberry Dr	Bryans Road	MD	20616-3256	ialm@erols.com	28	Minorities have the right to benefit from the environment
Diane P	Coon	4210 Southwinds Place, Unit 313	White Plains	MD	20695	dianepcoon76@gmail.com	28	
Adrian	Matthews	5720 Durham Ct	La Plata	MD	20646		28	
Katherine	Babiak	8350 Wooddy 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	
Teresa	Ball	3545 Promenade Pl	Waldorf	MD	20603	teresaball@ymail.com	28	
Jacob	Likins	11576 Highland Farm Ct	La Plata	MD	20646	jacoblikins60@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 Pl	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 no 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	Leonardtwn	MD	20650-2252	hendermom08@gmail.com	29A	
Brenda	Songy	40895 Lark Way	Leonardtwn	MD	20650-2248	brendasongy@gmail.co	29A	
Hillary	Maher	30180 Huntt 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	Leonardtwn	MD	20650	matusn56@gmail.com	29A	
Kelly	Combs		Leonardtwn	MD	20650		29A	

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.
Pamela	Mann	22064 Fox Ridge Rd	Lexington Park	MD	20653-1864	pemmail@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.
Jennifer	McGuire	17665 Saint Inigoes Rd	Saint Inigoes	MD	20684	jennmcguire@protonmail.com	29B	This matters to me because I struggled with my mental health for ya
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	ehalbert23@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	jennmcguire@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	
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	jenwillette@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	skurviee@gmail.com	29C	
Deborah	Hines	23290 White Elm Ct	California	MD	20619-2000	djhines417@gmail.com	29C	
Tammaraj	Davis	22991 Forest Way	California	MD	20619-6005	drtammarajdavis@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	
Peggy	Bishop	Pembroke drive	Hagerstown	MD	21740	peggybishop86@yahoo.com	2A	
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	christydreed@hotmail.com	30A	
Kathy	Minor	3217 Chrisland Dr	Annapolis	MD	21403-4352	kminor@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
Scott	Eden	2811 Deepwater Trl	Edgewater	MD	21037-1218	seden4100@gmail.com	30A
Gabi	Eisele	809 Moran Drive	Annapolis	MD	21401	gabymari05@gmail.com	30A
Mackenzie	Eisele	809 Moran Drive	Annapolis	MD	21401	mariygabi05@gmail.com	30A
Breanna	Ervin	1336 Tyler avenue Annapolis Maryland	Annapolis	MD	21403	evrin15@icloud.com	30A
Alyssa	Fajardo	705 skippers lane	Annapolis	MD	21401	nalysafajardo@gmail.com	30A
Lucille	Fantone	1209, thomas point court	Annapolis	MD	21403	lucy@fantone.net	30A
Sonia	Feldman	12 Taney Avenue	Annapolis	MD	21401	soniaf1020@gmail.com	30A
Bob	Feldmann	1037 Pinecrest Drive	Annapolis	MD	21403	b_feldmann@yahoo.com	30A
laila	fernandes	219 wardour dr	Annapolis	MD	21401	lailagfern@gmail.com	30A
Georgia	Fernandes	219 wardour dr annapolis MD	Annapolis	MD	21401	georgiamfern@gmail.com	30A
Catalina	Gibney	106 huse drive	Annapolis	MD	21403	catalinagibney22@gmail.com	30A
Alix	Gilbert	609 Admiral Dr Unit 308	Annapolis	MD	21401	alixgilbert1@gmail.com	30A
Eva	Gilchrist	1160 August Dr	Annapolis	MD	21403	evagmarie23@gmail.com	30A
Jessica	Gorski	314 Pytchley run	Annapolis	MD	21403	jpggorski@gmail.com	30A
Daniella	Grava	1340 Blackwalnut ct	Annapolis	MD	21403	djgrava7506@gmail.com	30A
Brigid	Haragan	3420 Cohasset Avenue	Annapolis	MD	21403	bharagan@msn.com	30A
Andrea	Hardin	104 Pine Dr. Annapolis MD	Annapolis	MD	21403	andreabhardin@gmail.com	30A
James	Harvey	15 Edelmar Drive	Annapolis	MD	21403	james.clarke.harvey27@gmail.com	30A
Gio	Hidalgo	609 Greenbriar Ln	Annapolis	MD	21401	GioH316@gmail.com	30A
Finn	Hintermister	641 Sean Dr	Annapolis	MD	21401	finnhint@icloud.com	30A
Anderson	Hofstedt	1711 Nimitz drive	Annapolis	MD	21401	astedt@outlook.com	30A
Ángeles	Juarez	695 Americana drive	Annapolis	MD	21403	angelesjuarez831@icloud.com	30A
Priscilla	Kania	853 Rudder Way	Annapolis	MD	21401	pakania@hotmail.com	30A
nancy	law	232 severn drive	Annapolis	MD	21401	help4elephants@gmail.com	30A
Elizabeth	Liechty	12 Spa Creek Lndg Unit A	Annapolis	MD	21403	elizabeth.liechty@ffg.com	30A
Eden	Loiacono	199 W Lake Dr	Annapolis	MD	21403	eloiacocono25@gmail.com	30A
Erin	Lorenz	53 Gentry Ct.	Annapolis	MD	21403	elorenz84@gmail.com	30A
Samuel	M	422 walnut drive 21403	Annapolis	MD	21403	kathleenmccubbin@gmail.com	30A
Erin	McActeer	329 Riding Ridge Rd	Annapolis	MD	21403	erinmm2006@gmail.com	30A
Ryan	McCandless	3 Carriage Run Ct.	Annapolis	MD	21403	fluffylegocat@gmail.com	30A
Ashley	McNulty	1026 Harbor Drive	Annapolis	MD	21403	ashleyemcnulty@yahoo.com	30A
Richard	Miller	926 King James Landing Rd	Annapolis	MD	21403	richmiller167@gmail.com	30A
Claire	Miller	926 King James Landing Rd	Annapolis	MD	21403	claire@mdehr.org	30A
Carolyn	Mills	8307 River Crescent Drive	Annapolis	MD	21401	knitroses@gmail.com	30A
Lara	Mish	1356 Blackwalnut Ct	Annapolis	MD	21403	laramish@verizon.net	30A
Christian	Murphy	2159 Hideaway Court	Annapolis	MD	21401	ctm.mmm2581@gmail.com	30A
Anne	Myers	2012 Quay Village CT, Apt 102	Annapolis	MD	21403	Amyers4546@aol.com	30A
Bartley	Newkirk	3019 Aberdeen Road	Annapolis	MD	21403	bartleynewkirk@gmail.com	30A
Polly	Offutt	1942 HIGH RIDGE RD	Annapolis	MD	21409	polly.offutt@gmail.com	30A
Helena	Petras	105 Tolson St. Annapolis, MD	Annapolis	MD	21401	helena.petras@outlook.com	30A

Steven	Petras	105 Tolson Street	Annapolis	MD	21401	spetras73@hotmail.com	30A	
Sophia	Phillips	84 Market Street	Annapolis	MD	21401	sophiaphillips@gmail.com	30A	
Ellen	Piwoz	108 River Drive	Annapolis	MD	21403	ellen.piwoz@gmail.com	30A	
Nathan	Porath	041 pinecrest drive	Annapolis	MD	21403	musicfantastico@gmail.com	30A	
Madeleine	Prost	205 Mckendree Ave	Annapolis	MD	21401	maddieprost@gmail.com	30A	
Leah	Rauda	6 Gilmet Street	Annapolis	MD	21401	leahrauda@gmail.com	30A	
Kelsey	Raymond	1760 Baltimore Annapolis Blvd	Annapolis	MD	21409	kelsrray@gmail.com	30A	
Taryn	Reinhart	105 Boyd Drive	Annapolis	MD	21403	tarynreinhart@gmail.com	30A	
Jay	resnick	959 Melvin Rd	Annapolis	MD	21403	jayresnick@me.com	30A	
Carolyn	Ricketts	207 Riverside Road	Edgewater	MD	21037	clynnline@gmail.com	30A	
Robby	Roberts	504 Francis Nicholson way	ANNAPOLIS	MD	21401	robbyrobertsiv@gmail.com	30A	
Joshua	Ryan	3102 Ervin Ct	Annapolis	MD	21403	joshuarian2006@gmail.com	30A	
Ty	Ryan	30 Chesapeake Landing	Annapolis	MD	21403	tywryan94@gmail.com	30A	
Ella	Sprague	1205 Cherry Tree Lane	Annapolis	MD	21403	ella.e.sprague@gmail.com	30A	
Ella	Sprague	1205 Cherry Tree Lane	Annapolis	MD	21403	ella.e.sprague@gmail.com	30A	
Lynn	Stack Wehrman	90 Conduit Street	Annapolis	MD	21401	lcgstack@gmail.com	30A	
Catherine	Stirling	104 Great Oak Dr	Annapolis	MD	21403	stirlingcathy@gmail.com	30A	
Cameron	Valdez	14f pythian rd	Annapolis	MD	21402	csvaldez1005@gmail.com	30A	
Victoria	Venable	112 South Street	Annapolis	MD	21401	victoria@chesapeakeclimate.org	30A	
Estefany	Ventura	240a hilltop Ln apt 102	Annapolis	MD	21403	estefanypalencia1121@gmail.com	30A	
Deborah	Wade	PO Box 5610	Annapolis	MD	21403	deborah@deborahwade.net	30A	
Ruth	White	307 Edgemere Drive	Annapolis	MD	21403	louisewhite82@gmail.com	30A	
Susan	Zevin	233 Cape Saint John Rd	Annapolis	MD	21401	susanzevin@comcast.net	30A	
Lauren		3052 Mimon Rd	Annapolis	MD	21403	lggoulet12@gmail.com	30A	
Philip	Allen	3463 Rockway Ave	Annapolis	MD	21403	pallen@frostburg.edu	30A	
Carol	Burke	1733 Drevar Trail	Annapolis	MD	21401	carol@slowdownandlive.com	30A	
Stephanie	Fegan	1544 Pine Whiff Ave	Edgewater	MD	21037	sfeganus@yahoo.com	30A	
Damian	Jones	1733 Drevar Trail	Annapolis	MD	21401	damiansir@gmail.com	30A	
Daniel	Long	1623 Fullerton Rd	Edgewater	MD	21037	daniellongjr@gmail.com	30A	
Max	Makovitch	313 Linden Ave	Annapolis	MD	21401	maxmakovitch@gmail.com	30A	
Katrina	McMillan-zapf	39 Pinkney Street	Annapolis	MD	21401	marchmz@gmail.com	30A	
Lauren	Peterson	518 Beach Drive	Annapolis	MD	21403	laurenptrson@gmail.com	30A	
Joy	Phillips	108 Sunset Dr.	Annapolis	MD	21403	joyphillips58@gmail.com	30A	
macy	shelton	122 Great Lake Dr	Annapolis	MD	21403	macyjoyselton@gmail.com	30A	
Maureen	Sherer	401 Walnut Dr, Annapolis, MD	Annapolis	MD	21403	masherer@verizon.net	30A	
Kate	Vogel	694A Rosedale St	Annapolis	MD	21401	kate1996@gmail.com	30A	
Patricia	Smith		Annapolis	MD	21403		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	
William	Yates	4603 Hinchingham Ln	Lothian	MD	20711-2400	wlyatesjr@gmail.com	30B	
Jessica	Chaney	461 , Penwood Dr	Edgewater	MD	21037	blue.jessicac@gmail.com	30B	
Isabella	Clarke	180 Tilden Way	Edgewater	MD	21037	isabellaclarke001@gmail.com	30B	
mia	currey	3016 white beech drive	Harwood	MD	20776	miacurrey2004@gmail.com	30B	
Sam	Doney	3240 Escapade Cir	Riva	MD	21140	samueledoney56@gmail.com	30B	
Madonna	Fick	3153 Stonehenge Dr	Riva	MD	21140	doobie7g@verizon.net	30B	

Joanne	Howl	4304 Tenthouse	West River	MD	20778	Jovet@aol.com	30B	
Erika	Johnson	1286 Fairfax Ave	Churchton	MD	20733	erika@brigidmountmaking.com	30B	
Linda	Johnson	1286 Fairfax Ave Churchton MD	Churchton	MD	20733	lindagayle316@gmail.com	30B	
Sara	Kaplan	930 edgewood Rd	Edgewater	MD	21037	msg4mini@gmail.com	30B	
Matt	Minahan	3651 First Avenue	Edgewater	MD	21037	matthew@minahangroup.com	30B	
Calen	Norton	4084 Honeysuckle Dr	Edgewater	MD	21037	calnorton2@gmail.com	30B	
Valeria	Ruiz	1176 Carrs Wharf rd	Edgewater	MD	21037	singer23410@gmail.com	30B	
Patti	Sachs	4906 Hine Drive	Shady Side	MD	20764	patti@st-margarets.org	30B	
Juliana	Schmitt	424 Riverview Dr	Edgewater	MD	21037	13016yay@gmail.com	30B	
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	
Katie	Boetig	200 Marine Blue Court	Edgewater	MD	21037	katieboetig@yahoo.com	30B	
Ryan	Kulikowski	4231 Sweet Leaf Lane	Edgewater	MD	21037	ryankuli@hotmail.com	30B	
Madeline	Loughlin	3098 fern hill court	Edgewater	MD	21037	madlough55@gmail.com	30B	
David	Morris	South river high school	Edgewater	MD	21037	710589@aacps.org	30B	
Isabelle	Murphy	South River High School	Edgewater	MD	21037	ivmurphy315@gmail.com	30B	
Calvin	Musser	3621 Calvert St.	Edgewater	MD	21037	superinjustice1000@gmail.com	30B	
Audriana	Nier	South River High School	Edgewater	MD	21037	audriana.e.nier@gmail.com	30B	
lila	nolan	fontron	Edgewater	MD	21037	lilabaynolan@gmail.com	30B	
Isabel	Nye	South river highschool	Edgewater	MD	21037	713565@aacps.org	30B	
Aileen	Oshlo	South river high school	Edgewater	MD	21037	aileenoshlo@icloud.com	30B	
Wyatt	Owens	South River highschool	Edgewater	MD	21037	673056@aacps.org	30B	
Abigail	Paepcke	119 Mulberry Court	Edgewater	MD	21037	728799@aacps.org	30B	
		201 Central Ave E, Edgewater, M	Edgewater	MD	21037	danielaoc411@gmail.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.
Jennifer	Sillitti	8229 Bayside Dr	Pasadena	MD	21122-5703	jenniferdurkin@hotmail.com	31B	
Kimberly	Brooks	3345 Pescara Ct	Pasadena	MD	21122-7007	matsigirl13@aol.com	31B	
Nancy	Rupp	1021 7th St	Glen Burnie	MD	21060-6739	nancyrupp@yahoo.com	31B	
Bernie	Robinson	8113 Woodbine Ct	Glen Burnie	MD	21061-6305	a.bernard.robinson@gmail.com	31B	
Madeleine	Green	648 Round Hill Rd	Gibson Island	MD	21056-1113	madeleine@thegreen.family	31B	
Gail	DeMoss	226 Beachwood Road	Pasadena	MD	21122	gdemoss@alberg30.org	31B	
Helen	Dibben	4748 Mountain Rd	Pasadena	MD	21122	kdiibbs17@gmail.com	31B	
MB	Friedel	1228 Swanhill Court	Curtis Bay	MD	21226	mbf1997@aol.com	31B	
Peter	Hanan	527 Donner Way	Millersville	MD	21108	peter.hanan@icloud.com	31B	

Kim	Hudyma	103 Bodan Rd	Millersville	MD	21108	khudyma@gmail.cm	31B	
Debra	Jasen	1127 Holmespun Drive	Pasadena	MD	21122	lotus@realityfailure.org	31B	
Dawn	Merino	1997 park drive	Pasadena	MD	21122	dmerino@gilliganlaw.com	31B	
Dianne	Westbrook	7877 Mansion House Crossing	Pasadena	MD	21122-6324	edwestbrook1@gmail.com	31B	
Melissa	Kingston	8108 Foxberry Ln	Pasadena	MD	21122		31B	
Brian	Stemberger	285 Wilderness Rd	Severna Park	MD	21146		31B	
Ruth	Stemberger	285 Wilderness Rd	Severna Park	MD	21146	ruthstemberger@gmail.com	31B	
Jenna	Pratt	4621 Potomac rd	Pasadena	MD	21122	jpratt3925@gmail.com	31B	
Theresa	Kamtchueng	1023 Cayer Dr, #106	Glen Burnie	MD	21061		32	
Rev. Randy	Callender	1909 Brigade Way	Odenton	MD	21113	randycallender@yahoo.com	32	
Olumide	Olusanya	8616 Accokeek St	Laurel	MD	20724		32	
Douglas	Whitehead	104 Linden Ave	Glen Burnie	MD	21061-2414	vikingarcher@comcast.net	32	
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	
Betty	Stipe	8239 Riviera Dr	Severn	MD	21144-2430	janestipe@verizon.net	32	
Joyce	Robinson	8010 Covington Ave	Glen Burnie	MD	21061-4989	joycerobinsonsparrow296@gmail.com	32	
Becky	Archer	3533 Rippling Way	Laurel	MD	20724-1702	b11archer@yahoo.com	32	
Sierra	Broseker	305 Newfield Road	Glen Burnie	MD	21061	sierrabroseker1359@gmail.com	32	
Lydia	Cunningham	406 Shipley RD	Linthicum Height	MD	21090	lydia.c.cunningham@gmail.com	32	
Samantha	Fairbanks	1615 Cheston Lane	Hanover	MD	21076	sfairbanks@umaryland.edu	32	
Colette	Gelwicks	232, Arcadia Shores Circle	Odenton	MD	21113	colette.weihrauch@gmail.com	32	
Daniyah	Johnson	8138 Harold Court Unit 2D	Glen Burnie	MD	21061	daniyah0309@icloud.com	32	
Kay	Katz	2639 TWIN BIRCH RD	Hanover	MD	21076	kaymarcie@aol.com	32	
Andrew	Keegan	429 Zeman Dr	Millersville	MD	21108	akeeg23@gmail.com	32	
Olivia	LaManna	625 Sandy Ridge Dr.	Glen Burnie	MD	21061	oblamanna2007@gmail.com	32	
Karlyn	McPartland	2885 Jessup Rd	Jessup	MD	20794	karlynmcp@gmail.com	32	
Rebecca	Pfau	7724 Terraview Ct	Hanover	MD	21076	beckypfau@gmail.com	32	
Anuhya	Pulapaka	7694 Dorchester Blvd Apt 424	Hanover	MD	21076	apul810@gmail.com	32	
Jay	Sheppard	3359 CRANBERRY S	Laurel	MD	20724	jaymsheppard95@gmail.com	32	
Catherine	Tignetti	8262 Ahearn Rd	Millersville	MD	21108	ctignetti@hcpss.org	32	
Patricia	Turnage	732 Queenstown Road	Severn	MD	21144	cottonfieldcricket@gmail.com	32	
Eli	Unger	7197 ridge rd apt c	Hanover	MD	21076	eliunger10@gmail.com	32	
Liberty	White	8633 Gaffney Street	Fort George G M	MD	20755	gilders_rider_0e@icloud.com	32	
Sandra	Weinstein	663 Mallard Ct	Arnold	MD	21012	sandylandbeach@aol.com	33	
Terri	Werner	787 Old Herald Harbor Rd	Crownsville	MD	21032-1524	terri_werner@hotmail.com	33	urban citizens suffer more from health related problems due to increa 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. 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.
Maggie	Neuman	884 Doris Dr	Arnold	MD	21012-1446	mrneuman@smcm.edu	33	A healthy environment and a healthy earth is one of the most important things we can leave our children and future generations.
Angela	Poinsett	PO Box 3314	Crofton	MD	21114-0314	agcpoinsett@yahoo.com	33	
Ashley	Brizzo	2471 chelmsford dr	crofton	MD	21114	ashley.n.briggs@gmail.com	33	
Cody	Calabrese	1610 rossback re	Davidsonville	MD	21035	codyc1350@gmail.com	33	
Debra	Gage	1835 Brett Court	Annapolis	MD	21401	Shakirabey@aol.com	33	
Nathaniel	Lamb	904 Marine Drive	Annapolis	MD	21409	nathaniel2804@gmail.com	33	
AmyLea	Murphy	2504 Doyles Lane	Davidsonville	MD	21035	amyleakmurphy@gmail.com	33	
Victoria	Neigh	687, Merrimac Ct	Davidsonville	MD	21035	vmneigh@gmail.com	33	
Alice	O'Donnell	12 Cindy Ct	Severna Park	MD	21146	atodonnell@verizon.net	33	
Ian	Osborne	3609 Aspen Court	Davidsonville	MD	21035	thelordofgirrafes@gmail.com	33	
patti	sachs	1601 Pleasant Plains Rd	Annapolis	MD	21409	patti@st-margarets.org	33	
Sarah	Sachse	93 Severn Place	Severna Park	MD	21146	bsachse@msn.com	33	
Leslie	Teichgraeber	1249 Algonquin Rd	Crownsville	MD	21032	lteichgr1@icloud.com	33	
Samantha	Pace	475 Edinburgh Ct	Severna Park	MD	21146-1621	samanthapace515@gmail.com	33	
Caroline	Sherony	2718 Riverview Dr	Riva	MD	21140-1010	caroline_sheronypchn@yahoo.com	33	
Gumus	Ozkok	930 Waterview Dr	Crownsville	MD	21032-1216	ozkokusa@gmail.com	33	
Eleni	Kotsis	1676 Winchester Rd	Annapolis	MD	21409-5832	elenivagelatos@gmail.com	33	
Cathy	Barton	517 Kansala Dr	Annapolis	MD	21401-8101	cj_bart_2000@yahoo.com	33	
Linda	Marshall	818 Windsor Rd	Arnold	MD	21012-1353	lindamarshall08@comcast.net	33	
Emily	Jelassi	1227 River Bay Rd	Annapolis	MD	21409-4901	etc.treats@gmail.com	33	
Janet	Fowler	1514 Knollwood Rd	Annapolis	MD	21409-5804	jfwfowler@gmail.com	33	
Diane	Geslois	PO Box 684	Severna Park	MD	21146-0684	dianemzake@gmail.com	33	
Martina B.	Hoffman	610 Burley Rd	Annapolis	MD	21409-6014	mabl11@verizon.net	33	
Colin	Rees	1824 Burley Ln	Annapolis	MD	21409-6049	reescolin@hotmail.com	33	
Leo	Plourde	1712 Peartree Ln	Crofton	MD	21114-2643	laplourde@verizon.net	33	
Ann	Fligsten	1337 Kinloch Cir	Arnold	MD	21012-2133	annfligsten@gmail.com	33	
Valerie	Brown	1204 Shelby Dale Ln	Crownsville	MD	21032-2212	vbg410@verizon.net	33	
Kendel	Amihere	1649 new Windsor court	Crofton	MD	21114	kendelamihere@aol.com	33	
Monna	Ashley	391 Berkshire Dr	Riva	MD	21140	monna.na19@gmail.com	33	
William	Averill	1173 Idylewild Dr	Annapolis	MD	21409	william.p.averill@icloud.com	33	
alayna	baratta	3511 victoria lane	Davidsonville	MD	21035	alaynabaratta@gmail.com	33	
asha	barkat	982 wayson way	Davidsonville	MD	21035	hsbsn@ksjd.com	33	
Jane	Bartlett	2024 Chesapeake Road	Annapolis	MD	21409	janegbartlett@gmail.com	33	
Anne	Bastian	1523 Enyart Way, Apt 303	Annapolis	MD	21409	bastian.anne@gmail.com	33	
nick	beck	1672 wickham wau	Crofton	MD	21114	beckn03@gmail.com	33	

Sydney	Bjorn	908 Soaring Eagle Court	Davidsonville	MD	21035	bjornsydney@gmail.com	33	
Raelyn	Brummitt	2015 Chesapeake Rd	Annapolis	MD	21409	raelynrox3@icloud.com	33	
Zach	Byington	1322, Pleasent Meadow Rs	Crofton	MD	21114	zcbyington@gmail.com	33	
Ellie	Cameron	1532 Endsley place	Crofton	MD	21114	ellie.cameron.2009@gmail.com	33	
Hildy	Cardaci	2000 Tundra Court	Annapolis	MD	21401	hcardaci@gmail.com	33	
anna	chacona	1804 Green Top Court	Annapolis	MD	21401	aochacona@gmail.com	33	
Lauren	Creasey	132 Merrimack Way	Arnold	MD	21012	laurencreasey63@gmail.com	33	
Zane	Davis	198 fulbright ct	Severna Park	MD	21146	zanebdavis01@gmail.com	33	
Allison	Doyle	525 Galley Court	Severna Park	MD	21146	Allison.Doyle@gmail.com	33	
keira	ellis	1826 Woodrail Dr	Millersville	MD	21108	keiraellis@yahoo.com	33	
Sarah	Ericson	1078 carriage hill parkway	Annapolis	MD	21401	sarah@ericsonhome.com	33	
James	Ferris	478 Mountain Road	Crownsville	MD	21032	jamespferris200507@gmail.com	33	
Leah	Franzluebbbers	1106 Niblick Ct	Arnold	MD	21012	leahfranzluebbbers@gmail.com	33	
Denise	Frey	1701 Underwood Rd	Gambrills	MD	21054	dlengfrey@gmail.com	33	
Gail	Fritsch	1712 Remington Drive	Crofton	MD	21114	molarbear2@comcast.net	33	
Shirley	Fuller	820 Janet Dale Ln	Severn	MD	21144-2788	sfuller@mac.com	33	
Kathleen	Geary	200 Divinity Ln	Arnold	MD	21012	jkgeary7@aol.com	33	
Avery	Goodwin	Crofton	Crofton	MD	21114	756449@aacps.org	33	
Jenna	Higgins	2760 Swann Way, Davidsonville	Davidsonville	MD	21035	jennakaitinhiggins@gmail.com	33	
Liam	Hodgson	1706 Trinity Place	Annapolis	MD	21401	liamnhodgson@gmail.com	33	
David	Illig	1298 Whirl a Way Ct	Gambrills	MD	21054	leonlao@gmail.com	33	
Sarah	Jamieson	300 Riggs Ave	Severna Park	MD	21146-4424	scjamieson96@gmail.com	33	
Kaifi	Jamil	1477 Crofton Parkway	Crofton	MD	21114	ki.jml@icloud.com	33	
Addison	Johns	1500 Circle Drive Annapolis Maryland	Annapolis	MD	21409	addisonhjohns2007@gmail.com	33	
Julia	Kamoie	1445 Pleasant Lake Rd	Annapolis	MD	21409	juliakamoie@icloud.com	33	
Helen	Kelley	1077 Deep Creek Ave.	Arnold	MD	21012	the_kelleys1@verizon.net	33	
Margery	Knight	628 Snow Goose Lane	Annapolis	MD	21409	margeryknight@gmail.com	33	
katie	kucner	3474, Constellation Drive	Davidsonville	MD	21035	katiekucner@gmail.com	33	
Cate	LaTour	3468 Monitor Court	Davidsonville	MD	21035	catelatour@icloud.com	33	
Ann	Leipold	883 Laurel Way	Arnold	MD	21012	annleipold@comcast.net	33	
Jules	Madey	292 Aston Forest Lane	Crownsville	MD	21032	madeyjulia@gmail.com	33	
Elizabeth	Marks	1299 lavall dr.	Davidsonville	MD	21035	emswim99@gmail.com	33	
Diana	Martin	355 Kingsberry Drive	Annapolis	MD	21409	msdsmartin@aol.com	33	
Kay	Maurer	1130 Crestview Dr.	Annapolis	MD	21409	kaymaurer@yahoo.com	33	
Madison	Mongeau	813 Buena Vista Ave	Arnold	MD	21012	maddypaddy827@gmail.com	33	
Kathryn	Nolte	248 Arundel Beach Road	Severna Park	MD	21146	kathynolte@mac.com	33	
Alexandra	O'Lavin	1413 Silver Oak Ln	Arnold	MD	21012	alexolavin13@gmail.com	33	
Monica	O'Connor	301 Avondale Circle	Severna Park	MD	21146	moconnor121@verizon.net	33	
Monica	Oconnor	301 Avondale circle	Severna Park	MD	21146	mdoconnor17@gmail.com	33	
Carolina	Olivieri	102 spot club rd	Arnold	MD	21012	cjolivi@hotmail.com	33	
Joseph	Pfeiffer-Powell	757 Benfield Blvd	Severna Park	MD	21146	josephpfeifferpowell@gmail.com	33	
Cassidy	Rae	8205 Daniels Purchase Way	Millersville	MD	21108	cassrhagan@gmail.com	33	
N	Ree	1680 Carlyle drive	Crofton	MD	21114	saitolatenr@gmail.com	33	
Colin	Rees	1824 Burley Lane	Annapolis	MD	21409	Reescolin@hotmail.com	33	
Carl	Reichwein	3515 Ashland Dr	Davidsonville	MD	21035	b.reichwein@gmail.com	33	
Diane	Rey	1322 Windsor Ridge Lane	Annapolis	MD	21409	writingink@comcast.net	33	

Tyler	Saveleski	1073 Saint Margarets Drive	Annapolis	MD	21409	saveleskityler@gmail.com	33	
Rev. Kathy	Shahinian	1717 Stratton Rd	Crofton	MD	21114	kathyshahinian@aol.com	33	
Emma	Sievenpiper	1258 Seminole Drive	Arnold	MD	21012	ensievenpiper@gmail.com	33	
Gabby	Timian	2721 howard grove rd Davidsonville md	Davidsonville	MD	21035	gabbyt0113@icloud.com	33	
Albert	Todd	1037 Lake Claire Drive	Annapolis	MD	21409	hydroman1037@gmail.com	33	
Susan	Valett	4 Belleview Drive	Severna Park	MD	21146	susan.valett@me.com	33	
Jon	Valett	4 Belleview Drive	Severna Park	MD	21146	jon.valett@me.com	33	
Rachael	Vander Roest	1529 patuxent manor road	Davidsonville	MD	21035	rachaelvanderroest@gmail.com	33	
Maria	Varnell	3474 Ranger Road	Davidsonville	MD	21035	mariakatev@icloud.com	33	
Penelope	Vermillion	2710, Rutland Road	Davidsonville	MD	21035	chipchipchipchip1122@gmail.com	33	
Simmons	Wallace	884 Mallard Circle	Arnold	MD	21012	simmone0311@verizon.net	33	
Trishelle	Weed	115 Gambrells Rd.	Severn	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	jslerem1@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	
sandra	weinstein	663 Mallard Ct	Arnold	MD	21012	sandra.weinstein@pgcps.org	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. 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.
Marilynn	Baldwin	109 Beards Hill Rd	Aberdeen	MD	21001-1923	baldwinmp42@gmail.com	34A	
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	
Deborah	Lessman	2960 kingsmark court	Abingdon	MD	21009	deborahlessman@gmail.com	34B	
Rev. Dr. Hugh	Nash	3311 Dublin Manor Rd.	Street	MD	21154	hnash@zoominternet.net	35	
Jean	Salvatore	2007 Ruffs Mill Road	Bel Air	MD	21015	jmsalvat55@gmail.com	35	
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	ruthtcassilly@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	freligh	3216 rocks chrome hill road	Jarrettsville	MD	21084	theresafreligh@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	Gibsonld@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	Fendryk	520 Applewood Dr	Bel Air	MD	21014		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.
Hope	Clark	4775 Cliffs City RD	Chestertown	MD	21620	hope@climate-xchange.org	36	
Wendy	Cronin	504 Cannon Street	Chestertown	MD	21620	wcpotter96@gmail.com	36	
Betsy	McCovan	25265 Howell Pt Rd	Betterton	MD	21610	betsy@ehos.org	36	
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 Barbar	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	
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	sassyantiques@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	fcarollo@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@phillipswharf.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 Louden 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	
Konstantine	Kyriacopoulos	104 W William St	Salisbury	MD	21801	kyriaco48@gmail.com	37A	
Kelsie	Mattox	210 Chestnut Tree Rd	Hebron	MD	21830		37A	
Elizabeth William	Williams	14 Judas St	Easton	MD	21601	wethbilliams@gmail.com	37B	I'm sorry, but if this is even a question for you there is nothing more I
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	bosslady7718@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	
Kathleen	Bangert	9829 Leeds Landing Rd	Easton	MD	21601	kathibangert@gmail.com	37B	
Pat	Finley	400 Noble St	Hurlock	MD	21643-3529	pfinley400@gmail.com	37B	
John	Craig	29051 Superior Cir	Easton	MD	21601		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	d1mf143@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	ampypisaacs@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@mcsierra.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	buccijs@comcast.net	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@indivisibleworcestermd.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.
Carmen	Collette	19512 Laguna Drive	Gaithersburg	MD	20879	craecollette@gmail.com	39	
Bethany	Fuss	12370 Quail Woods Drive	Germantown	MD	20874	mbfly12@gmail.com	39	
Patricia	Henderson	12301 Silvergate Way	Germantown	MD	20874	Thamac@verizon.net	39	
Holly	Jackson	9713 Breckenridge Place	Montgomery Ville	MD	20886	HollyRJackson@gmail.com	39	
Edna	Miller	19317 Club House Road, Unit 10	Montgomery Ville	MD	20886	edna13miller@gmail.com	39	
Francis	Edoh	22379 Bright Sky Dr	Clarksburg	MD	20871		39	
Patricia	McGarry	17309 Flagstone Dr	Germantown	MD	20874-2234	patriciamcgarry1007@yahoo.com	39	
Steven	Kraft	8474 Meadow Green Way	Gaithersburg	MD	20877-3704	stevenkraft85@gmail.com	39	
John	Meehan	10258 Wild Apple Cir	Montgomery Ville	MD	20886-1055	john@adrenalinrush.com	39	
Ambreen	Tariq	18808 Sky Blue Cir	Germantown	MD	20874-5397	brownpeoplecamping@gmail.com	39	
Brenda	Braham	12217 Peach Crest Dr Apt C	Germantown	MD	20874-2545	bbraham@earthlink.net	39	
Katrin	Mcfarlane	19903 Sugar Notch Cir	Montgomery Ville	MD	20886-4906	uszwegrnase@yahoo.com	39	
Vanessa	Kranz	8852 Thomas Lea Ter	Montgomery Ville	MD	20886-4348	nessa.kranz@gmail.com	39	
Richard	Allen	9427 Gentle Cir	Montgomery Ville	MD	20886-1208	rwallen4equity@comcast.net	39	
Barbara	Weiner	18507 Eagles Roost Dr	Germantown	MD	20874-2101	bbweiner@gmail.com	39	
Emmalee	Aman	19312 Circle Gate Drive	Germantown	MD	20874	aman@potomac.org	39	
Janet	Ardam	10216 Crested Iris Drive	Montgomery Ville	MD	20886	jago10216@gmail.com	39	
Jailil	Badran	18544 Traxell Way	Gaithersburg	MD	20879	sathlin@gmail.com	39	
Debbie	Blair	7606 Augustine Way	Gaithersburg	MD	20879-4587	adblair@comcast.net	39	

Patricia	Cuff	9708 Nordstrom Ct	Montgomery Villa	MD	20886	pmcuff@aol.com	39	
Kobey	Davenport	18805 Porterfield Way	Germantown	MD	20874	kobeydavenport@gmail.com	39	
Katerine	Delgado	13244 Bayberry Drive	Germantown	MD	20874	delgadokaterine@yahoo.com	39	
David	Freiman	16404 Apache Lane	Gaithersburg	MD	20878	davidafreiman@gmail.com	39	
Laurie	Kreitzer	9710 Eclipse Pl	Montgomery Villa	MD	20886	lauriekreitzer@gmail.com	39	
Purav	Parekh	11527 Elk Horn Dr	Clarksburg	MD	20871	puravp@gmail.com	39	
Bijal	Parekh	11527 elk horn dr	Clarksburg	MD	20871	bmathuria@gmail.com	39	
Janette	Rosenbaum	18512 Boysenberry Drive #200	Gaithersburg	MD	20879	janette.rosenbaum@outlook.com	39	
Glenn	Wallace	9 Meadowcroft Ct	Montgomery Villa	MD	20886	glennrwallace@gmail.com	39	
Maxwell	Neely	123 E 3rd St	Frederick	MD	21701-5312	maxwellneely@gmail.com	3A	
Patti	Fredericks	6121 Mountaindale Rd	Thurmont	MD	21788	pattihrmnt1@aol.com	4	The EHRA is critically important to become part of the Maryland Conservation Plan. 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.
Anne	Terry	602 Craycombe Ave	Baltimore	MD	21211-2238	anneterry513@aol.com	40	
Rickey	Derby, Jr.	2011 N Fulton Ave	Baltimore	MD	21217		40	
Kathleen	Gagnon	1 South Eutaw St	Baltimore	MD	21201	kathleen.gagnon@umaryland.edu	40	
Paul	Walker	1930 Mt.Royal Terrace, Baltimore	Baltimore	MD	21217	mtcolfax@yahoo.com	40	
Mia	Thomas	1048 Ellicott Dr	Baltimore	MD	21216		40	
Ellis	Woodward	3422 Seneca St	Baltimore	MD	21211-1415	yoellis@earthlink.net	40	
Leatra	Harper	1427 Park Ave	Baltimore	MD	21217-4231	ahinz61@outlook.com	40	
Ashleigh	Pagano	665 W Lexington St	Baltimore	MD	21201-1557	onagapea@gmail.com	40	
Katherine	H	3654 Clipper Rd	Baltimore	MD	21211-1404	ediblecolor@gmail.com	40	
Jonathan	Freedlander	1004 W 41st St	Baltimore	MD	21211-1651	jonfreedlander@gmail.com	40	
Andrew	Hinz	1427 Park Ave	Baltimore	MD	21217-4231	ahinz61@outlook.com	40	
Bobby	Hall	524 N Charles St Apt 1618	Baltimore	MD	21201-5063	bhall1628@yahoo.com	40	
Eve	A	300 W. Lombard Street #417	Baltimore	MD	21201	etaustin@umaryland.edu	40	
Kathryn	Achey	611 park avenue	Baltimore	MD	21201	tachey@mica.edu	40	
Amberly	Bark	1006 W 41st St	Baltimore	MD	21211	amberlybark@gmail.com	40	
Barbara	Blumberg	1329 Bolton Street	Baltimore	MD	21217	barbarablumberg104@gmail.com	40	
Abigail	Breiseth	829 Hollins St.	Baltimore	MD	21201	abigailbreiseth@gmail.com	40	
Warner	Brockman	31 S. Stricker St.	Baltimore	MD	21223	warner.brockman@gmail.com	40	
Erika	Brockman	31 S. Stricker Street	Baltimore	MD	21223	erika.brockman@gmail.com	40	
Carly	Brody	300 W. Lombard St., Apt. 715	Baltimore	MD	21201	cbrody@umaryland.edu	40	
Nicholas	Carpenter	635 Portland St	Baltimore	MD	21230	nicholas.carpenter@umaryland.edu	40	
John	Chapman	1207 W 42nd Street	Baltimore	MD	21211	sjchap01@yahoo.com	40	
Lilin	Chen	300 W Redwood St Unit 828	Baltimore	MD	21201-1708	lilin_0807@hotmail.com	40	
Suhani	Chitalia	837 West Lombard Street	Baltimore	MD	21201	snchitalia@gmail.com	40	
Elly	Cowan	3600 Clipper Mill Rd. Suite 248	Baltimore	MD	21211	ecowan@presmd.org	40	
Teresa	Daly	900 S. Caton Ave	Baltimore	MD	21229	Teresa.Daly@doc.org	40	
Joseph	Dowdell	300 W Lombard St	Baltimore	MD	21201	jdowdell@umaryland.edu	40	

Emily	Engelbrecht-Wig	717 PORTLAND ST	Baltimore	MD	21230	eengelbrecht-wiggans@som.umaryla	40	
Evan	Gombert	220 W Ianvale Street	Baltimore	MD	21217	etgombert@gmail.com	40	
Bobby	Hall	524 N. Charles St. Apt. 1628	Baltimore	MD	21201	bhall1628@yahoo.com	40	
Heather	Hax	1442 Redfern Avenue	Baltimore	MD	21211	heatherhax@gmail.com	40	
Tanya	Hicks	501 w university pkwy	Baltimore	MD	21210	tanyafhicks@yahoo.com	40	
Leah	Higgins	11 S Eutaw St	Baltimore	MD	21201	leah.higgins@umaryland.edu	40	
Joel	Houlette	300 Saint Paul Pl. Apt 911	Baltimore	MD	21202	joelhoulette@umaryland.edu	40	
Melissa	Howison	788 Washington Blvd Ste 2	Baltimore	MD	21230	howison.melissa@gmail.com	40	
Lemoine	Joseph	108 W Saratoga St	Baltimore	MD	21201	ljoseph5153@gmail.com	40	
Emm	Kantt	1631 Park Ave	Baltimore	MD	21217	kantt.ben@gmail.com	40	
Malachy	Kilbride	611 Park Avenue, APT. 1005	Baltimore	MD	21201	malachykilbride@gmail.com	40	
Annebelle	Klein	518 W. Fayette St, Apt 0308A	Baltimore	MD	21201	ahklein@umaryland.edu	40	
Kara	Korab	2415 Eutaw Pl	Baltimore	MD	21217	karakorab@gmail.com	40	
Mary	Krzywosz	300 W Lombard St.	Baltimore	MD	21201	mkrzywosz@umaryland.edu	40	
Divya	Kumar	101 W Read St	Baltimore	MD	21201	divkumar19@gmail.com	40	
Sachin	Kuruville	211 Penn St	Baltimore	MD	21230	sachinmkuruville@gmail.com	40	
Georgie	Lellman	616 S Paca St	Baltimore	MD	21230	georgielellman@gmail.com	40	
isaak	lindenbaum	500 west baltimore street 606 Saint Paul Street, PO Box 063	Baltimore	MD	21202	isaak.lindenbaum@umaryland.edu	40	
Michaela	Marin	519 W Pratt St	Baltimore	MD	21201	mmarin5@jh.edu	40	
Maureen	McClellan	3514 clipper rd	Baltimore	MD	21211	mmorgan74532@gmail.com	40	
Mary	Morgan	2330 Eutaw Pl	Baltimore	MD	21217	perssoa.stoner@gmail.com	40	
Cecilia	Pessoa Gingeric	2330 Eutaw Pl #2	Baltimore	MD	21217	tags2011@gmail.com	40	
Tobias	Pessoa Gingeric	2501 Eutaw Place	Baltimore	MD	21218	alex@bethambaltimore.org	40	
Alex	Pomerantz	518 W. Fayette St.	Baltimore	MD	21201	pgraisis@gmail.com	40	
Pauline	Raisis	219 W LANVALE ST	Baltimore	MD	21217-4140	yikescooby@yahoo.com	40	
William	Schmitz	3639 Clarenell Road	Baltimore	MD	21229	asens@churchonthesquarebaltimore.	40	
Amy	Sens	3625 Chestnut Avenue	Baltimore	MD	21211	kstritzi@gmail.com	40	
Kate	Stritzinger	4016 Roland Ave	Baltimore	MD	21211	aetarleton@gmail.com	40	
Amy	Tarleton	2007 CLIPPER PARK RD	Baltimore	MD	21211	msvee505@gmail.com	40	
roberta	Van Meter	518 W Fayette Street	Baltimore	MD	21201	gmwdance22@gmail.com	40	
Gabriella	Werner	518 W. Fayette St., Apt. 663 32E	Baltimore	MD	21201	bradford.wicker@umaryland.edu	40	
Bradford	Wicker	1300 Linden Green	Baltimore	MD	21217-7541	puck528@comcast.net	40	
Dick	Williams	3520 Foundry Mews	Baltimore	MD	21211-1472	lindastrout2@gmail.com	40	
Linda	Trout	4906 Nelson Ave	Baltimore	MD	21215-5741	mj2p08@yahoo.com	41	We owe it to ourselves and each other. We should all practice being keepers of the Earth; it is our collective responsibility.
Maria	Poole	2311 Lyndhurst Ave	Baltimore	MD	21216-2014	mjchairston@gmail.com	41	To improve future generations a better quality of life.
Marsha	Hairston	7111 Park Heights Ave Unit 112	Baltimore	MD	21215-1657	tovagersh@gmail.com	41	For the sake of our children and grandchildren !
Tova	Gershowitz	5748 Cross Country Blvd	Baltimore	MD	21209	bethany.gregg@gmail.com	41	
Bethany	Gregg	3755 Columbus Drive	Baltimore	MD	21215	xypatty.chanxx@gmail.com	41	
Anaya	Robinson	102 g Nichols st i21214	Baltimore	MD	21214	kathytunney43@gmail.com	41	
Kathleen	Tunney	400 Nottingham Rd	Baltimore	MD	21229		41	
Drusilla	Pierce	4352 Newport Ave	Baltimore	MD	21211-1233	geog21211@verizon.net	41	
George	Goldman	5509 S Bend Rd	Baltimore	MD	21209-4525	e.neiman@web.de	41	
E	Neiman	4702 Keswick Rd	Baltimore	MD	21210-2323	pdiamond@gejlaw.com	41	
Philip	Diamond	5711 Greenspring Ave	Baltimore	MD	21209-4325	libby.baker1@gmail.com	41	
Elizabeth	Baker							

Wendy	Balder	5722 Ranny Rd	Baltimore	MD	21209-4408	wbalder@comcast.net	41	
Charles	Cooepr	2359 Nutmeg Ter	Baltimore	MD	21209-4627	charlie.coop47@gmail.com	41	
Chris	Yoder	5701 Rusk Ave	Baltimore	MD	21215-4135	chris.yoder@mnsierra.org	41	
Anthony	Erdman	4303 Dewey Ave	Baltimore	MD	21211-1647	shine_on_syd@yahoo.com	41	
Mary	Cooper	111 Hamlet Hill Rd Unit 303	Baltimore	MD	21210-1521	mimi303@comcast.net	41	
Bethany	Gregg	5748 Cross Country Blvd	Baltimore	MD	21209-4230	bethany.gregg@gmail.com	41	
Alvonia	Allen	1016 Wildwood Parkway	Baltimore	MD	21229	Foxy2237@verizon.net	41	
Andrew	Beiderman	720 Saint Johns Rd	Baltimore	MD	21210	aandy@gmail.com	41	
Mara	Braverman	6 Upland Road	Baltimore	MD	21210	marabraverman@gmail.com	41	
Drew	Brown	2822 Cheswolde Road	Baltimore	MD	21209	MolEcol@yahoo.com	41	
Kenneth	Brown	5609 Elderon Ave	Baltimore	MD	21215	krb.justice@yahoo.com	41	
Betsy	Cohen	6000 Ivydene Terrace	Baltimore	MD	21209	beliz@comcast.net	41	
Cathy	Cook	4422 Grand View Ave	Baltimore	MD	21211-1229	cccooke@gmail.com	41	
Diana	Coyle	4304 Rugby Road	Baltimore	MD	21210	dianacoyle@gmail.com	41	
Jacqueline	Dalton	1703 Mt Washington Ct, Apt A 2501 Manhattan Ave Baltimore	Baltimore	MD	21209	daltonjv@aol.com	41	
Jennifer	Downs Flickinger	Md	Baltimore	MD	21215	jennifer@jenniferdowns.com	41	
Gwen	DuBois	1817 Sulgrave Ave	Baltimore	MD	21209	bikenotbomb@gmail.com	41	
Bonny	Eisenbise	2007 South Rd	Baltimore	MD	21209-4509	bonnybise@gmail.com	41	
Margaret	Engvall	416 Kensington Road	Baltimore	MD	21229-2401	mwengvall@comcast.net	41	
Terrence	Fitzgerald, MD	1817 Sulgrave Ave	Baltimore	MD	21209	TFitzcom@comcast.net	41	
Sal	Grobani	3031 Fallstaff Road	Baltimore	MD	21209	sallygrobani@gmail.com	41	
Brian and Eugen	Holmes and Jenk	600 West University Pkwy	Baltimore	MD	21210	eugenie.jenkins@gmail.com	41	
Layla	Horeff	727 W 40th St	Baltimore	MD	21211	lahoreff@loyola.edu	41	
Cyreka	Jacobs	5917 Western Park Dr Apt A	Baltimore	MD	21209	cyreka@msn.com	41	
Barbara	Jarvis	109 Woodlawn Rd	Baltimore	MD	21210	barbarajarvis@me.com	41	
Deborah	Jencks	8 Midvale Rd	Baltimore	MD	21210-2114	dsjencks@comcast.net	41	
AMY	JOHANSON	4614 Schenley Rd	Baltimore	MD	21210	acjohanson@gmail.com	41	
Hope	Johnson	4506 North Charles Street	Baltimore	MD	21210	hcjohnson@loyola.edu	41	
Jeffrey	Johnson	2308 Tucker Lane	Baltimore	MD	21207	jvjohnson2015@comcast.net	41	
Betsy	Krieger	411 Hawthorne Rd	Baltimore	MD	21210	betsykrieger@gmail.com	41	
Caleb	Kurlantzick	206 Hawthorn Rd	Baltimore	MD	21210	ckurlantzick@friendsbalt.org	41	
Layla	Lunn	5114 N Charles St, Baltimore, MD	Baltimore	MD	21210	llunn@friendsbalt.org	41	
Harry	MacGillis	4604 Schenley Rd	Baltimore	MD	21210	hbmaggillis@gmail.com	41	
Michael	Marinelli	4328 Roland Ave	Baltimore	MD	21210	michaelmarinelli98@gmail.com	41	
Jane	Marinelli	4328 Roland Ave	Baltimore	MD	21210	janebkm@gmail.com	41	
Robert	Marinelli	4328 Roland Avenue	Baltimore	MD	21210	marinelli403@gmail.com	41	
anne	maxson	413 HAWTHORNE RD	Baltimore	MD	21210	annemaxson@hotmail.com	41	
Bridget	McCusker	833 Brinkwood Rd	Baltimore	MD	21229	mccbrid@gmail.com	41	
Mary	McMenamin	3802 Beech Ave.	Baltimore	MD	21211	mkmcmenamin@gmail.com	41	
Janina	OBrien	309 Oakdale Rd	Baltimore	MD	21210	jainamara@msn.com	41	
Wendy	Olsson	2211 Sulgrave Ave	Baltimore	MD	21209	quinto_real1@yahoo.com	41	
patricia	parsley	705 gladstone ave	Baltimore	MD	21210	peparsley@gmail.com	41	
Barbara	Patalics	853 Glen Allen Dr	Baltimore	MD	21229-1425	patalics@yahoo.com	41	
Bill	Piermattei	5003 Roland Ave Apt 2	Baltimore	MD	21210	wpiermattei7@outlook.com	41	
Joshua	Ratner	5011 Boxhill Ln.	Baltimore	MD	21210	joshua.ratner@gmail.com	41	

Sophia	Rubin	1204 Poplar Hill Road	Baltimore	MD	21210	Sophiar24@parkschool.net	41	
Martha	Ruffin	3 Bellemore Road	Baltimore	MD	21210	martharuffin@me.com	41	
Raychel	Santo	909 W. University Pkwy	Baltimore	MD	21210	eagleraych@gmail.com	41	
Carol	Schreter	1905 Dixon Rd.	Baltimore	MD	21209	C.Schreter@comcast.net	41	
Nick	Sheridan	4405 Wickford Road	Baltimore	MD	21210	curioussheridan@gmail.com	41	
Barrie	Sigler	8 LONGWOOD RD	Baltimore	MD	21210	bgs@siglers.org	41	
Natalie	Spicyn	3933 Keswick Road	Baltimore	MD	21211	natalie.spicyn@gmail.com	41	
Logan	Stratton	909 W. University parkway	Baltimore	MD	21210	stratt2256@gmail.com	41	
Carmen	Tidwell	2223 Rogene Drive	Baltimore	MD	21209	ctidwell@friendsbalt.org	41	
Elizabeth	Whitner	2408 Rockwood Ave	Baltimore	MD	21209	ewwhitner@gmail.com	41	
Sally	Pinkstaff	4 Gregoria Ct	Baltimore	MD	21212-1050	pinksto4@aol.com	42A	We need more green spaces. Suburban areas with more and more building is not sustainable.
Joseph	Wilbourne	501 Hickory Ln	Towson	MD	21286-7308	josephcwilbourne@gmail.com	42A	We face unprecedented environmental challenges on many fronts, not least of them being climate change. Being conscious of these challenges and taking action to mitigate their impacts is crucial.
Carol	Appleby-Vanko	528 Sussex Rd	Towson	MD	21286-7608	carolappleby@comcast.net	42A	This is foundational, so needs to be in the constitution so later legislators can't easily undo it.
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.
Roland	Oehme	700 Seabrook Ct	Towson	MD	21286-2912	greenharmonyliving@gmail.com	42A	Every resident of Maryland must have the right to clean air, water, land, and a stable climate. Without this fundamental right, we will not be able to sustain ourselves longterm.
Ira	May	811 Fairway Dr	Towson	MD	21286-7804	irapmay@yahoo.com	42A	As a person who has spent his entire professional life in the pursuit of a cleaner environment, putting society on notice that a clean environment is also a human right is critical.
Vanessa	Gonzalezgreen	531 Brook Rd	Towson	MD	21286-5634	vgpt@hotmail.com	42A	
Sally	Yost	6303 Blenheim Rd	Baltimore	MD	21212-2502	mtgretna77@gmail.com	42A	
Linda	Klouzal	6729 Queens Ferry Rd	Baltimore	MD	21239-1430	lklouzal@gmail.com	42A	
Bernadette	Krol	814 Chumleigh Rd	Baltimore	MD	21212-1609	bernidonnenberg@comcast.net	42A	
Bill	Denison	609 Horncrest Rd	Towson	MD	21204-4225	billdenison1@comcast.net	42A	
Karen	Cicmanec	22 Linden Ter	Towson	MD	21286-5209	kcicmanec2013@comcast.net	42A	
Gaye	Tearnan	212 Aigburth Rd	Towson	MD	21286-1106	gthomes.md@gmail.com	42A	
Charles	Skinner	606 Stoneleigh Rd	Baltimore	MD	21212-1645	cskinnecc@gmail.com	42A	
Katherine	Lautar	7727 York Rd	Baltimore	MD	21204-7514	katelautar@gmail.com	42A	
Joan	Lewin	504 Club Ln	Towson	MD	21286-7302	joanlewin@yahoo.com	42A	
Mary	Gaut	906 Kingston Rd	Baltimore	MD	21212-1910	gautmary2000@gmail.com	42A	
Vanessa	Gonzalez-Green	531 Brook Rd	Towson	MD	21286-5634	vgpt@hotmail.com	42A	
Richard	Ames-Ledbetter	9 Maryland Avenue	Towson	MD	21286	amesledbetter@gmail.com	42A	
G Andrew	Bauer	527 Windwood Road	Baltimore	MD	21212	andrewvelo@gmail.com	42A	
Emma	Bisson	3 Foxway Terrace	Towson	MD	21286	gojiberry331@gmail.com	42A	
William	Blair	1601 Glen Keith Blvd	Towson	MD	21286	willieblair@mac.com	42A	
Kelly	Causey	723 Regester Ave	Baltimore	MD	21212	kellyberteen@gmail.com	42A	
Evan	Coleman	205 S. Tyrone Rd.	Baltimore	MD	21212	ssst.dude@gmail.com	42A	
Francesca	D'Alessio	121 Hopkins Rd	Baltimore	MD	21212	fdalessio@friendsbalt.org	42A	
Miriam	Dia	302 E Joppa Rd	Towson	MD	21286	dia.miriam.m@gmail.com	42A	
Kimberly	Dulay Hobbs	306 Dunkirk Rd.	Baltimore	MD	21212	kdulayh2@gmail.com	42A	
Phoebe	Evans Letocha	604 Stoneleigh Rd	Baltimore	MD	21212	PAEL73@yahoo.com	42A	
Lynn	Flanigan	701 Seabrook Ct	Towson	MD	21286	lff315@msn.com	42A	
Patricia	Friel	239 Brandon Road	Baltimore	MD	21212	pfriel@gilman.edu	42A	

Mary	Gaut	906 Kingston Road	Baltimore	MD	21212	mary.d.gaut00@gmail.com	42A	
Mary	Glassman	626 Dunkirk Rd.	Baltimore	MD	21212	safest-symbol0e@icloud.com	42A	
Kirsten	Hoffman	701 W JOPPA RD	Towson	MD	21204-3811	hoffman01@yahoo.com	42A	
Ellen	Hoitsma	131 Hopkins Road	Baltimore	MD	21212	ehoitsma@gmail.com	42A	
Adreon	Hubbard	1207 Overbrook Rd.	Baltimore	MD	21239	hubbardesol@gmail.com	42A	
Robert	Jenkins	114 Willow Ave	Towson	MD	21286	rjenkins@bluewaterbaltimore.org	42A	
Annalisa	Jenkins	203 S Tyrone Rd	Baltimore	MD	21212	ajenkins@friendsbalt.org	42A	
Anna	Keefer	805 Ridgeleigh Rd	Baltimore	MD	21212	annakeefer13@gmail.com	42A	
Anna	Keefer	805 Ridgeleigh Rd.	Baltimore	MD	21212	akeefer@friendsbalt.org	42A	
Julie	Klinger-Luht	719 Anneslie Rd	Baltimore	MD	21212-2002	luhtja@gmail.com	42A	
Jessica	Krueger	1542 Cottage Ln	Towson	MD	21286	jlibby@vt.edu	42A	
Anna	Krull	210 Overbrook Road	Baltimore	MD	21212	annakrull7@gmail.com	42A	
jeanette	leblanc	415 georgia court	Towson	MD	21204	02_dessert.spacey@icloud.com	42A	
Kim	Leith	12 Register Ave., Baltimore MD	Baltimore	MD	21212	leith92@yahoo.com	42A	
Dorothy (Sister)	Malone	6401 N Charles St	Baltimore	MD	21212	1dotmalone@gmail.com	42A	
Charles	Massanopoli	105 Versailles Circle Apt C	Towson	MD	21204	chmass5@gmail.com	42A	
Catherine	McCusker	236 Linden Ave	Towson	MD	21286	cmccusker97@gmail.com	42A	
Georgia	McDonald	1501 Register Ave	Baltimore	MD	21239	gmcdonald1501@gmail.com	42A	
Elizabeth	McGraw-Austin	14 1/2 Linden Terrace	Towson	MD	21286	e.mcgrawaustin@gmail.com	42A	
John	McKusick	603 Anneslie Road	Baltimore	MD	21212-2012	john.ca.mckusick@verizon.net	42A	
Elizabeth	Miller	523 Murdock Road	Baltimore	MD	21212	bethbonemiller@gmail.com	42A	
Robert S	Miola	309 Old Trail Road	Baltimore	MD	21212	rmiola@loyola.edu	42A	
Barbara	Miyasaki	27 Stoneridge Court	Baltimore	MD	21239	miyasakib@gmail.com	42A	
Ann	Phillips	1 Southerly Ct #207	Towson	MD	21286	annieone1@verizon.net	42A	
Molly	Pickus	908 greenleigh rd	Baltimore	MD	21212	mollypickus@gmail.com	42A	
Darlene	Quinn	6508 Old Orchard RD	Baltimore	MD	21239-1604	bandit6508@yahoo.com	42A	
Patricia	Rath	330 Stanmore Rd	Baltimore	MD	21212	pattygrath@gmail.com	42A	
Ilya	Schneider	518 Holden Rd	Towson	MD	21286	ilyaschubin@gmail.com	42A	
Carlton	Sexton	600 Chestnut Ave.	Towson	MD	21204	carltoncsexton@gmail.com	42A	
Ann	Snoeyenbos	5 Florida Road	Towson	MD	21204	annsnoeyenbos@yahoo.com	42A	
Betsy	Stocksdale	915 Register Avenue	Baltimore	MD	21239	betsylstocksdale@gmail.com	42A	
Lauren	Stranahan	627 Fairway Drive	Towson	MD	21286	lauren.n.stranahan@gmail.com	42A	
Nanette	Strauss	527 Brook Road	Towson	MD	21286	nes915@aol.com	42A	
Elena	Vanko	528 Sussex Rd	Towson	MD	21286-7608	elena.vanko@gmail.com	42A	
Francie	Weeks	705 Kingston Road	Baltimore	MD	21212	francieweeks@gmail.com	42A	
Diane	Wittner	243 Stanmore Road	Baltimore	MD	21212	diane@echotopia.org	42A	
Cecelia	Yost	144 Murdock Rd	Baltimore	MD	21212	celiyost@gmail.com	42A	
Mary	Gaut	906 Kingston Road	Baltimore	MD	21212-1910	mary.d.gaut00@gmail.com	42A	
Joan	Sattler	901 Southerly Rd #525	Towson	MD	21204	joanx@comcast.net	42A	
Carol	Appleby-Vanko	528 Sussex Rd	Towson	MD	21286	carolappleby@comcast.net	42A	
Carol	Newill	6907 Avondale Rd	Baltimore	MD	21212	cnewill@gmail.com	42A	
Meredy	McDonagh	710 Hampton Ln	Towson	MD	21286-1407	meredy@comcast.net	42B	We are way overdo to make the Environment a priority. Time is running out before even bigger, permanent problems occur. It is time to stop TAKING and start GIVING BACK and acting RESPONSIBLY. Thank you for all you already do help the Environment.
Joseph	Fisher	4310 Manorwood Dr	Glen Arm	MD	21057-9129	thegunfish@aol.com	42B	This right is paramount for the survival and well being of all our citizens.

Carel	Hedlund	13801 York Rd	Cockeysville	MD	21030	cthedlund@msn.com	42B	As head of the Green sanctuary committee at my church, as a memb
Amato	Mongelluzzo	11613 Silvermaple Ct # 21020	Hunt Valley	MD	21030-1979	amato210@msn.com	42B	
Jackie	Lunz	10718 Lakespring Way	Cockeysville	MD	21030-2821	jlunz915@verizon.net	42B	
Carel	Hedlund	13801 York Rd Apt U308	Cockeysville	MD	21030-4404	cthedlund@msn.com	42B	
Jane	Wolterreck	13600 Royal Crest Rd	Phoenix	MD	21131-1526	jwolterreck@aol.com	42B	
Elizabeth	Koopman	13801 York Rd Apt J13	Cockeysville	MD	21030-1824	jasperbeach@verizon.net	42B	
Weber	DuVal	3 Jackson Manor Ct	Phoenix	MD	21131-1850	rwdual@loyola.edu	42B	
Richard	DuVal	3 Jackson Manor Ct	Phoenix	MD	21131-1850	rduval@rwbaird.com	42B	
Catherine	Bashore	504 Chadwick Rd	Lutherville Timon	MD	21093	cwbashore@gmail.com	42B	
Ann	Beezley	1828 Trenleigh Road	Parkville	MD	21234	aebeezley@gmail.com	42B	
Nancy	Berger	2 stone row	Cockeysville	MD	21030	trail4miles@gmail.com	42B	
William R.	Breaky	13801York Road	Cockeysville	MD	21030	bbreaky@comcast.net	42B	
Angela	Breaky	13801 York road	Cockeysville	MD	21030	slievegoland@gmail.com	42B	
Eloise	Brown	2525 Pot Spring Rd	Lutherville Timon	MD	21093	efbrown.68@gmail.com	42B	
Charles	Conklin	4601 Copperwood Lane Glen Arm MD 21057	Glen Arm	MD	21057	ceconklin12@verizon.net	42B	
Diane	Crider	212 Gateswood Rd.	Lutherville Timon	MD	21093	criderdaw57@gmail.com	42B	
Richard	Dezes	1608 providence rd	Towson	MD	21286	radezes@comcast.net	42B	
Lynne	Durbin	307 West Wind Road	Towson	MD	21204	lynnedurbin@gmail.com	42B	
Richard	DuVal	3 Jackson Manor Court	Phoenix	MD	21131	rwdual@loyola.edu	42B	
Karie	Firoozmand	133 Greenmeadow Drive	Lutherville Timon	MD	21093	kariefir@gmail.com	42B	
Charlotte	Flury	55 Greenmeadow Dr	Lutherville Timon	MD	21093-3210	flurycj@comcast.net	42B	
Amy	Forsberg	2906 Summit Ave	Parkville	MD	21234	amyforsberg@hotmail.com	42B	
Rebecca	Frechard	31 Othoridge Road	Lutherville Timon	MD	21093	catsndogs2112@gmail.com	42B	
Shireen	Gonzaga	11005 Gateview Road	Cockeysville	MD	21030	shireengonzaga@gmail.com	42B	
Robert	Goren	13801 York Road, Apt Y204	Cockeysville	MD	21030	goren.moore@gmail.com	42B	
jane	harrison	13801 York Road K12	Cockeysville	MD	21030	jane_harrison1@comcast.net	42B	
Susan	Haugh	11630 Glen Arm Road	Glen Arm	MD	21057	susanhaugh42@gmail.com	42B	
Todd	Hufnagel	9 Greenridge Rd	Lutherville Timon	MD	21093	shrieks-muzzles0c@icloud.com	42B	
Nelson	Hyman	13802 York Road	Cockeysville	MD	21030	nelsonhy37@gmail.com	42B	
Linda	Koch	13801 York Road, A-3	Cockeysville	MD	21030-1825	kochlbt@gmail.com	42B	
Susan	Lipton	17818 Foreston Road	Parkton	MD	21120	svl@frawg.org	42B	
Meredith	McDonagh	710 Hampton Lane	Towson	MD	21286	meredy@comcast.net	42B	
Rita	McMullin	1511 Bedworth Road	Lutherville Timon	MD	21093	grammymcmullin@gmail.com	42B	
Patty	Mochel	7819 Chelsea Street	Towson	MD	21204	pmochel@verizon.net	42B	
Linda	Myers	1430 Ivy Hill Road	Cockeysville	MD	21030	lmyers001@verizon.net	42B	
Isabelle	Pardew	1300 Aintree Road	Towson	MD	21286	iszee21286@yahoo.com	42B	
David	Patron	10639 Anglo Hill Road	Cockeysville	MD	21030	thepatron5@comcast.net	42B	
ANNE	ROSENBERG	218 BRACKENWOOD CT	Lutherville Timon	MD	21093	arosenberg852@gmail.com	42B	
Janet	Schollenberger	4 bridle valley rd glen arm md	Glen Arm	MD	21057	janet.schollen@gmail.com	42B	
Juanita	Sergent	10604 Partridge Lane unit B3	Cockeysville	MD	21030	juanitabsergent@gmail.com	42B	
Sara	Sides	17106 MASEMORE ROAD	Parkton	MD	21120	ssides@towson.edu	42B	
Duvall	Sollers	2201 Mt. Carmel Road	Parkton	MD	21120	dbollers61@comcast.net	42B	
D	T	123 Sesame st	Towson	MD	21286	dtopper2@verizon.net	42B	
Amy	Wells	1700 Welford Court	Lutherville Timon	MD	21093	amyd.wells@verizon.net	42B	
Glenn	Wells	1700 Welford Court	Lutherville Timon	MD	21093-5752	glennw444@yahoo.com	42B	
Monica	Wiedel-Lubinski	11509 Notchcliff Rd	Glen Arm	MD	21057	director@erafans.org	42B	

Ted	Wiese	1020 Rolandvue Road	Towson	MD	21204	tedwardwiese@gmail.com	42B	
Jane	Wolfson	3310 Richfield Lane	Phoenix	MD	21131	jwolfson@towson.edu	42B	
Karen	Wright	1401 Newport Place	Lutherville	MD	21093	karensmemories@comcast.net	42B	
Joseph	Wright	1401 Newport Pl	Lutherville	MD	21093	jmkswright@comcast.net	42B	
Mary	Zimbardo	1011 Green Acre Road	Towson	MD	21286	mjzimbardo1011@gmail.com	42B	
Billy	Pappas	34 Sunnyview Dr	Phoenix	MD	21131	billypappas1@gmail.com	42B	
Mandy	Plantholt	10706 Cardington Way, Apt 102	Cockeysville	MD	21030	mandylea7@gmail.com	42B	
Chris	Schaefer	1220 Providence Rd, Divinity Luth	Towson	MD	21286	pastor@divinitylutheran.net	42B	
Shengjun	Zhang	2703 Cub Hill Rd	Baltimore	MD	21234		42B	
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.
Arlene	Ogurick	333 E 30th St # 21218	Baltimore	MD	21218-3933	aogurick2001@yahoo.com	43	Critically important to under-served communities & those most directly by specific environmental hazards
Suzanne	Hill	1303 Argonne Dr	Baltimore	MD	21218-1432	soozlib@aol.com	43	All human beings deserve a clean safe environment.
Heather	Martley	4923 Herring Run Dr	Baltimore	MD	21214	hmartley@hotmail.com	43	
Brittany	Starr		Baltimore	MD	21212		43	
Karen	Temple	1515 Roundhill Rd	Baltimore	MD	21218		43	
Elinore	Krell	3811 Canterbury Rd Apt 210	Baltimore	MD	21218-2317	erkrell@yahoo.com	43	
Aaeron	Robb	6130 Chinquapin Pkwy	Baltimore	MD	21239-1905	antigonemydear@gmail.com	43	
Jerry	Druch	3040 Barclay St	Baltimore	MD	21218-3936	jerrydruch@gmail.com	43	
Judith	Geller	3143 Abell Ave	Baltimore	MD	21218-3412	ggellermsw@aol.com	43	
Jacqueline	Baruch	3040 Barclay St	Baltimore	MD	21218-3936	jerrydruch@gmail.com	43	
Megan	Shook	4100 N Charles St Apt 607	Baltimore	MD	21218-1029	mega330@comcast.net	43	
Thomas	Ventre	1024 E Lake Ave	Baltimore	MD	21212-3142	tommy.ventre@gmail.com	43	
Matthew	Humphrey	3045 Saint Paul St Apt 3	Baltimore	MD	21218-4018	matthumphrey12@gmail.com	43	
Beth	Renwick	3309 Abell Ave	Baltimore	MD	21218-2807	bethrenwick@aol.com	43	
Barbara	Barocca	1217 Evesham Ave	Baltimore	MD	21239-2636	bbarocca@gmail.com	43	
Peter	Davin	4501 N Charles St	Baltimore	MD	21210-2601	pgdavin@loyola.edu	43	
Brendan	Walter	4501 N Charles St	Baltimore	MD	21210-2601	bewalter@loyola.edu	43	
Jacob	Bierstaker	4501 N Charles St	Baltimore	MD	21210-2601	bierstakerj@gmail.com	43	
Nelson	Diaz	4501 N Charles St	Baltimore	MD	21210-2601	nelson.330.diaz@gmail.com	43	
Cameron	Conte	4501 N Charles St	Baltimore	MD	21210-2601	contec@xavier.edu	43	
Mel	Silberger	4501 N Charles St	Baltimore	MD	21210-2601	108amelia@gmail.com	43	
Valerie Ann	Astin	3801 Canterbury Road #906	Baltimore	MD	21218-2378	catch_all@yahoo.com	43	
Miriam	Avins	619 Homestead Street	Baltimore	MD	21218	miriam.avins@gmail.com	43	
Anju	Banerjee	310 Tunbridge Rd	Baltimore	MD	21212	abanerjee@friendsbalt.org	43	
Daisy	Barquist	2805 Guilford Ave	Baltimore	MD	21218	daisy@daisybarquist.com	43	
Martha	Benson	806 Cedarcroft Road	Baltimore	MD	21212	marthahopeb@gmail.com	43	

Sally	Boulter	2803 St Paul St	Baltimore	MD	21218	sally_boulter@hotmail.com	43	
Homewood Frien	Bur	3107 N. Charles Street	Baltimore	MD	21218	homewoodfriends@gmail.com	43	
Amelie	Burns	4501 N. Charles Street	Baltimore	MD	21210	agburns@loyola.edu	43	
Marilyn	Carlisle	1238 Ramblewood Rd	Baltimore	MD	21239	carlmari23@yahoo.com	43	
Abigail	Carlson	431 Nicoll Ave	Baltimore	MD	21212	abbycarlson00@yahoo.com	43	
Ro	Casey	3014 Abell Ave	Baltimore	MD	21218	ringryffindor@gmail.com	43	
James	Cleghorn	4000 N CHARLES ST, APT 804	BALTIMORE	MD	21218-1768	jstephencleghorn@yahoo.com	43	
Sara	Coyle	4501 N Charles St 4910 Crowson Ave., 4910 Crowson	Baltimore	MD	21210	srcogle@loyola.edu	43	
Margaret	crowther		Baltimore	MD	21212	margaretcrowther@yahoo.com	43	
Lillian	Davis	4501 N Charles St Ms 2890	Baltimore	MD	21210	lillianfdavis@icloud.com	43	
Michael	Degani	718 Pacific St	Baltimore	MD	21211	mdegani1@jhu.edu	43	
Bernie	del Prado	4501 N Charles St.	Baltimore	MD	21210	bernadettedelprado@gmail.com	43	
Meghan	Duthie	4501 n Charles st	Baltimore	MD	21210	meduthie@loyola.edu	43	
Elizabeth	DuVerlie	3601 Greenway #705	Baltimore	MD	21218	duverlie@gmail.com	43	
Sara	Eisenberg	306 Evesham Avenue	Baltimore	MD	21212	alifeofpractice@gmail.com	43	
Elizabeth	Engleman	4000 North Charles Street Unit 804	Baltimore	MD	21218	englewoman@verizon.net	43	
Molly	Ervin	3339 N Charles St	Baltimore	MD	21218	mervin.molly@gmail.com	43	
Carolina	Fautsch	2829 N Calvert St	Baltimore	MD	21218	c.i.fautsch@gmail.com	43	
Kate	Flores	100 W University Pkwy Apt 5F	Baltimore	MD	21210	floreskc@gmail.com	43	
Ayla	Frost	310 East University Parkway	Baltimore	MD	21218	aylatfrost@gmail.com	43	
Dylan	Gaeta	3 W 24th St	Baltimore	MD	21218	dylangaeta@gmail.com	43	
Katherine	Galbreath	2809 N Howard Street	Baltimore	MD	21218	katherinelgalbreath@gmail.com	43	
Leela	Gebo	310 east university parkway	Baltimore	MD	21218	leela1125@gmail.com	43	
Rebekah	Geller	3143 Abell Avenue	Baltimore	MD	21218	rebekahg23@parkschool.net	43	
Ilana	Ginsberg	2936 Keswick Rd	Baltimore	MD	21211	ilana.ginsberg@gmail.com	43	
Rebecca	Grunski	4501 N. Charles St	Baltimore	MD	21210	rebeccaelyse3@gmail.com	43	
Rebecca	Grunski	4501 N. Charles St	Baltimore	MD	21210	regrunski@loyola.edu	43	
Joe	Halloran	327 E 25th St	Baltimore	MD	21218	jhall251@gmail.com	43	
Mary	Hardcastle	303 Wyman Park Drive	Baltimore	MD	21211	hardcastlemharvest@gmail.com	43	
Polly	Heninger	4000 N Charles St Unit 310	Baltimore	MD	21218	peh616@msn.com	43	
Rabbi Michael	Hess Webber	3106 Keswick Rd	Baltimore	MD	21211	prontezza@gmail.com	43	
Naomi	Horiba	4000 Greenway	Baltimore	MD	21218	naomihoriba@outlook.com	43	
Megan	Humphrey	3301 N Charles Street	Baltimore	MD	21218	mhumph18@jhu.edu	43	
Mansha	Kapur	116 W University Pkwy	Baltimore	MD	21210	manshakupur2000@gmail.com	43	
Donna	Keck	321 E 30th St	Baltimore	MD	21218	donnaapkeck@gmail.com	43	
Mary Jo	Kirschman	2901 Overland Ave.	Baltimore	MD	21214-3136	mkirschman@gmail.com	43	
Ramsey	Kissack	5701 N. Charles St.	Baltimore	MD	21210	ramseykissack@icloud.com	43	
Mitchell	Kleckner	3201 St Paul St	Baltimore	MD	21218	manicalnarwhal@gmail.com	43	
Sophia	Kranov	3401 Greenway	Baltimore	MD	21218	sophiakranov123@gmail.com	43	
Jonathan	Lacock-Nisly	3110 Remington Ave	Baltimore	MD	21211	jonathan@ipldmv.org	43	
Helen	Langa	124 E Melrose Ave Apt C	Baltimore	MD	21212-2949	hlanga@american.edu	43	
Megan	Latshaw	202 Saint Dunstans Rd	Baltimore	MD	21212	meganlatshaw@outlook.com	43	
Kaitlyn	Lengyel	603 E 30th Street	Baltimore	MD	21218	kait.lengyel@gmail.com	43	
Casey	Levitt	310 E UNIVERSITY PKWY	Baltimore	MD	21218-2845	clevitt1@jh.edu	43	
Aidan	Linehan	4501 n Charles st	Baltimore	MD	21210	alinehan1@loyola.edu	43	

Susan	McCully	3200 N Calvert St	Baltimore	MD	21218	susanbmcully@gmail.com	43	
Claire	McNamara	414 Rosebank Ave	Baltimore	MD	21212	cmcnamara2@gmail.com	43	
Christian	McNeill	4501 N Charles St.	Baltimore	MD	21210	chmcneill@loyola.edu	43	
Katie	Metzger	3900 North Charles	Baltimore	MD	21212	klmetzger@loyola.edu	43	
Anne	Mickle	5710 Charlestowne Drive	Baltimore	MD	21212	ajlmw09@gmail.com	43	
John	Mirarchi	4002 Linkwood Rd	Baltimore	MD	21212	jcmirarchi@loyola.edu	43	
Samantha	Mitchell	3037 Barclay St	Baltimore	MD	21218	samamitch@gmail.com	43	
Liz	Murphy	3900 N. Charles St	Baltimore	MD	21218	ermurphy@loyola.edu	43	
Max	Obuszewski	431 Notre Dame Ln Apt 206	Baltimore	MD	21212	mobuszewski2001@comcast.net	43	
Brenda	Okoye	4501 North Charles Street	Baltimore	MD	21210	bokoye88@gmail.com	43	
Mary	Olejarczyk	4501 North Charles St.	Baltimore	MD	21210	mpolejarczyk@loyola.edu	43	
Elizabeth	Oswald	2913 Keswick Road	Baltimore	MD	21211	orange.appled70@gmail.com	43	
Bobby	P	4501 n charles st	Baltimore	MD	21210	nskakajoa@snakoaoa.net	43	
Norma	Pinette	4100 N Charles St, Apt 815	Baltimore	MD	21218	theo.pinette@gmail.com	43	
Pedro	Polanco	1254 Meridene Drive	Baltimore	MD	21239	pedrop561@gmail.com	43	
Annie	Quinn	3900 North Charles St	Baltimore	MD	21218	acquinn@loyola.edu	43	
Carol	Rice	406 Northway	Baltimore	MD	21218	crice445@gmail.com	43	
Jackie	Rittenhouse	310 E University Parkway	Baltimore	MD	21218	jritten2@jhu.edu	43	
Aaeron	Robb	6130 Chinguapin Parkway	Baltimore	MD	21239	antigonemydear@gmail.com	43	
Charles	Robinson	329 Rosebank Avenue	Baltimore	MD	21212	ct3inmd@yahoo.com	43	
Hannah	Ryan	4501 N Charles St	Baltimore	MD	21210	hannahryan12@optimum.net	43	
Roderick	Ryon	904 Chestnut Hill ave	Baltimore	MD	21218	rryon@towson.edu	43	
John	Scheinman	3811 Canterbury Rd. 4501 North Charles St.	Baltimore	MD	21218	now4better@aol.com	43	
Timothy	Schluth	Baltimore, MD	Baltimore	MD	21210	tjschluth@loyola.edu	43	
Katlyn	Schmitt	995 Sling Ora Ct.	Baltimore	MD	21218	kschmitt@progressivereform.org	43	
Judi Anderson	Seal	3811 Canterbury Rd, Apt. 703	Baltimore	MD	21218	WithAnEye@gmail.com	43	
Martin	Siegel	6204 Mossway	Baltimore	MD	21212	mrosssiegel@gmail.com	43	
Japna	Singh	4501 N Charles St	Baltimore	MD	21210	jksingh@loyola.edu	43	
Bryant	Smith	2631 Sisson St	Baltimore	MD	21211	bryant@baltimoretreustrust.org	43	
Joan	Stanne	904 Chestnut Hill Avenue, Baltimore, MD	Baltimore	MD	21218	stannejoan@yahoo.com	43	
Lisa	Sullivan	3900 North Charles Street	Baltimore	MD	21218	lsullivan@loyola.edu	43	
Megan	Sullivan	4501 N Charles St	Baltimore	MD	21210	sullivan.meganc@gmail.com	43	
Eliza	Thomas	332 W 30th Street	Baltimore	MD	21211	thomas.elizam@gmail.com	43	
Ryan	Tseng	3700 N Charles Street	Baltimore	MD	21218	ryantseng914@gmail.com	43	
Joseph	Tumfour	3111 North Charles Street	Baltimore	MD	21218	jtumfou1@jh.edu	43	
Dorothy	Valakos	2506 Hermosa Avenue	Baltimore	MD	21214-2539	dvalakos@verizon.net	43	
Adele	Wakefield	3942-cloverhill-rd	Baltimore	MD	21218-1019	adelewakefield@yahoo.com	43	
Veronica	Wallace	3400 N Charles St	Baltimore	MD	21218	vwallac4@jhu.edu	43	
Stephen	Weaver	3404 Harford Rd	Baltimore	MD	21218	steveweaver66@gmail.com	43	
Alex	Welna	2743 Saint Paul Street	Baltimore	MD	21218	alexwelna@gmail.com	43	
Rachel	Wilkinson	2705 woodsdale ave	Baltimore	MD	21214	rwilkins07@yahoo.com	43	
Lisa	Zeimer	3405 Greenway	Baltimore	MD	21218	lisa.zeimer@gmail.com	43	
Lynn	Davidson	515 N Rock Glen Rd	Baltimore	MD	21229-3106	lynn.davidson@mdsierra.org	44A	
Phila	Hoopes	429 Westgate Road	Baltimore	MD	21229	philahoopes@gmail.com	44A	
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.
Laura	Finazzo	190 Cherrydell Rd	Catonsville	MD	21228-2241	laurafinazzo@gmail.com	44B	
Linda	Corcoran	113 Starhill Ln	Catonsville	MD	21228-5449	le.corcoran@gmail.com	44B	
Lauren	Warres	2 Holmehurst Ave	Catonsville	MD	21228-4630	laurenbreakstone@gmail.com	44B	
Cheryl	Thurber	100 Hillside Rd	Catonsville	MD	21228-5518	cthurby@yahoo.com	44B	
Rayner	Reinhardt	202 Stonewall Rd	Catonsville	MD	21228-5441	raynermoelle@gmail.com	44B	
Joe	Corcoran	113 Starhill Lane	Catonsville	MD	21228	corcoran2921@gmail.com	44B	
Cheryl	Council	12 Crooked Willow Ct	Catonsville	MD	21228	ccouncil2@aol.com	44B	
Margaret	Downing	35 , Overbrook Rd	Catonsville	MD	21228	mercury_blips_0x@icloud.com	44B	
Lorraine	Eakin	209 Cherrydell Rd	Catonsville	MD	21228	eakinlorraine@yahoo.com	44B	
Kathy	Gross	17 Clay Lodge Lane	Catonsville	MD	21228	haitikathy@gmail.com	44B	
Rev. Maeba	Jonas	39 N Prospect Ave	Catonsville	MD	21228	rev.maeba@gmail.com	44B	
Carol	Jones	1 Northland Road	Gwynn Oak	MD	21207	cj4813@gmail.com	44B	
Suzanne	Kantt	321 Greenlow Road	Catonsville	MD	21228	sekanтт@gmail.com	44B	
Abby	Kantt	321 Greenlow Rd	Catonsville	MD	21228	abbo725@gmail.com	44B	
Mary	Maxey	35 Bryans Mill Way	Catonsville	MD	21228	maximom11998@gmail.com	44B	
Carolyn	Richardson	2024 old Frederick rd	Catonsville	MD	21228	cric5549@gmail.com	44B	
Shery	Tomlinson	6501 Woodbridge Cir	Catonsville	MD	21228	Stbirder@yahoo.com	44B	
Karen	Turo	420 Bloomsbury Avenue	Catonsville	MD	21228	karenka99@aol.com	44B	
Linda	Wagner	19 Holmehurst Avenue	Catonsville	MD	21228	katpower58@gmail.com	44B	
Kathy	Gross	17 Clay Lodge Ln	Catonsville	MD	21228		44B	
Susan	Lattimore	5408 W North Ave	Gwynn Oak	MD	21207		44B	
Robert	Ochs	418 Neeper Rd	Baltimore	MD	21228	robertochs@rocketmail.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
Diana	Price	3710 Elmora Ave	Baltimore	MD	21213		45	
Kathleen	Kiselewich	6107 Ridgeview Ave	Baltimore	MD	21206-2448	kat50202@aol.com	45	
Lucinda	Murphy	3206 Batavia Ave	Baltimore	MD	21214-2607	cindymurphy25@comcast.net	45	
Joseph	Dimaggio	PO Box 3632	Baltimore	MD	21214-0632	jjdimaggio@yahoo.com	45	
Savoy	Adams	910 n lakewood	Baltimore	MD	21205	sadams1@loyola.edu	45	
Farida	Ahmed	929 North Wolfe Street	Baltimore	MD	21205	ms.ahmedfareeda@gmail.com	45	
Eugenia	Argires	5902 Benton Heights Ave	Baltimore	MD	21206	eargires@gmail.com	45	
Martha	Barss	3105 Tyndale Avenue	Baltimore	MD	21214	martha.barss@gmail.com	45	
Alex	Blenman	3504 Glenarm Avenue	Baltimore	MD	21206	adblenman@gmail.com	45	
Myra	Chughtai	929 N Wolfe St	Baltimore	MD	21205	myrachughtai@gmail.com	45	
Carol	Cleaveland	5902 , Benton Heights Ave	Baltimore	MD	21206	ccleavel@gmail.com	45	
Steph	Compton	3211 Hamilton Ave	Baltimore	MD	21214	Steph@energyjustice.net	45	
Nancy	Conrad	4513 Bayonne Avenue	Baltimore	MD	21206	nancyconrad@verizon.net	45	
Christine	Duke	3704 Eastwood Drive	Baltimore	MD	21206	SCHUTZMANCONSULTING@GMAIL	45	
Nicole	Hartig	2917 Glenmore Ave	Baltimore	MD	21214	max0787@gmail.com	45	
Beverly	Jackson	4905 ROSS RD	Baltimore	MD	21214	bjacksn9@aol.com	45	
Samia	Kirchner	918 N Calvert Street	Baltimore	MD	21215	srab@alum.mit.edu	45	
Kathleen	Kiselewich	6107 Ridgeview Ave Balto MD 21206	Baltimore	MD	21206	kat50202@aol.com	45	
Dustin	Koller	1010 Saint Paul Street, Apt 9D	Baltimore	MD	21202	dustinleebakerkoller@gmail.com	45	

Jo	Kraus	4415 Mary Ave	Baltimore	MD	21206	jakraus47@gmail.com	45	
Daniel	Martin-Minnich	20 East Lanvale St	Baltimore	MD	21202	dmartinminn@gmail.com	45	
Bibiana	Medina	4311 Walthers Ave	Baltimore	MD	21214	cooknbibi@yahoo.com	45	
Alexander	Payne	817 Saint Paul St	Baltimore	MD	21202	alexander.payne@umaryland.edu	45	
Elaine	Pollack	5109 Holder Ave	Baltimore	MD	21214	elaine.pollack@gmail.com	45	
Valeska	Populoh	3202 JUNEAU PL	Baltimore	MD	21214	valeskapopuloh@yahoo.com	45	
John	Reuter	2902 Louise Ave	Baltimore	MD	21214	john68439@yahoo.com	45	
Julianna	Smith	1201 N CHARLES ST APT 207	Baltimore	MD	21201-5676	julianna.smith@umaryland.edu	45	
Kim	Tomko	6112 Sefton Ave	Baltimore	MD	21214	Ktomkat@gmail.com	45	
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!
Kina	Soberano	316 Imla Street	Baltimore	MD	21224	ksoberano31104@gmail.com	46	
Gregory	Marsh	1205 S Ellwood Ave	Baltimore	MD	21224		46	
David	Turban	135 Welcome Aly	Baltimore	MD	21201-2431	elsman98@msn.com	46	
David	Arndt	1445 Haubert St	Baltimore	MD	21230-5221	roseca2010@gmail.com	46	
Kyle	Parker	148 E Clement St Apt C	Baltimore	MD	21230-4555	kparker526@gmail.com	46	
Charles	Loubert	1630 Whetstone Way Apt 421	Baltimore	MD	21230-5177	folkspirit28@gmail.com	46	
Patricia	Ceglia	112 S Patterson Park Ave Apt 1	Baltimore	MD	21231-2114	pjceglia@gmail.com	46	
Halina	Bereday	1448 Sumwalt Ct.	Baltimore	MD	21230	hbereday@umaryland.edu	46	
Angelica	Brooks	1010 CHERRY HILL RD, Apt, suite, floor,	Brooklyn	MD	21225	penuelabrooks@gmail.com	46	
Kristana	Carlin	209 S Robinson St	Baltimore	MD	21224	kristana.carlin@gmail.com	46	
Alex	Chapman	124 N. Luzerne Ave.	Baltimore	MD	21224	chapman.alexander13@yahoo.com	46	
Joyce	Cheng	217 S Chester St	Baltimore	MD	21231	jmc4xb@virginia.edu	46	
Briana	Ciccarino	207 N Milton ave	Baltimore	MD	21224	bciccarino@gmail.com	46	
Gordon	Creamer	723 Harvey Street	Baltimore	MD	21230	rockvillefly@yahoo.com	46	
Leslie	Currie	103 E Wells Street	Baltimore	MD	21230	lcurrie@umaryland.edu	46	
Michael	DiJulia	10 Light St., Unit 3101	Baltimore	MD	21202	michaeldijulia@icloud.com	46	
Michelle	Dominguez Cabrera	2411 Orleans St	Baltimore	MD	21224	mdominguez-cabrera@loyola.edu	46	
Neville	Fernandes	9 S Curley St	Baltimore	MD	21224	neville.ferns@gmail.com	46	
Erin	Franey	126 South Wolfe Street	Baltimore	MD	21231	efraney2@jhmi.edu	46	
Neta	Friedberg	2225 Lamley St	Baltimore	MD	21231	fried.neta@gmail.com	46	
MEGAN	FRINER	2511 Fait Avenue	Baltimore	MD	21224	mfriner@gmail.com	46	
Will	Gallagher	807 S Charles St	Baltimore	MD	21230	wrgallagher@umaryland.edu	46	
Haley	Garbus	2015 E Lombard St	Baltimore	MD	21231	hgarbus1@jhmi.edu	46	
Andrew	Grossman	1814 Webster st	Baltimore	MD	21230	agrossman@gmail.com	46	
Amie	Hall	2604 E Fairmount Ave	Baltimore	MD	21224	amie1124@gmail.com	46	
Seth	Hamrick	20 N Chester St	Baltimore	MD	21231	jeremy.seth.hamrick@gmail.com	46	
Jamie	Hoare	1228 battery avenue	Baltimore	MD	21230	jamiehoare@umaryland.edu	46	
Leana	Houser	619 S Kenwood Ave	Baltimore	MD	21224	lphouser76@gmail.com	46	
Colin	Hughes	807 S Charles Street	Baltimore	MD	21230	COLINHUGHES95@GMAIL.COM	46	
Hannah	Klaus	244 South Castle Street	Baltimore	MD	21231	hannaheklaus@gmail.com	46	
John	Krahel	1220 Bank Street	Baltimore	MD	21202	jkrahel@loyola.edu	46	
Ellen	Levy	39 S Ellwood Ave	Baltimore	MD	21224	ellen.craven.4@gmail.com	46	
Divya	Manoharan	1738 E Lombard Street	Baltimore	MD	21231	divyakmanoharan@gmail.com	46	

Kerry	McClaghry	858 E Lombard St	Baltimore	MD	21202	kerrymcclaghry@gmail.com	46	
Peggy	Meyer	33 Andrew Place	baltimore	MD	21201	pa.meyer@comcast.net	46	
Ciera	Miller	1201 S. Charles, Unit 3D	Baltimore	MD	21230	Cieramiller64@gmail.com	46	
Collin	Morgan	1211 S Conkling St	Baltimore	MD	21224	cjmorgan@umaryland.edu	46	
Nancy	Newman	2107 E Baltimore Street	Baltimore	MD	21231	naelnewman@aol.com	46	
Joy	Noble	12 W Montgomery St	Baltimore	MD	21230	joy@joynobledpt.com	46	
Kimberly	Oslin	113 W Conway St	Baltimore	MD	21201	sci.kim24@gmail.com	46	
Erica	Rea	910 William St	Baltimore	MD	21230	erica.s.rea@gmail.com	46	
Clarissa	Ren	100 N Madeira St	Baltimore	MD	21231	clarissa.ren@gmail.com	46	
Barbara Jo	Ruble	417 Grindall St.	Baltimore	MD	21230	bruble@stcenv.com	46	
Curtis	Saunders	33 N Montford Ave	Baltimore	MD	21224	curtis.saunders87@gmail.com	46	
Megan	Saunders	33 North Montford Ave	Baltimore	MD	21224	mburesh@gmail.com	46	
Eric	Schneider	923 S Hanover Street	Baltimore	MD	21230	ericsh77@gmail.com	46	
Jon and Lynn	Shematek	1200 Steuart Street, Unit 921	Baltimore	MD	21230	shematek@comcast.net	46	
Kerry	Slingluff	1211 William Street	Baltimore	MD	21230	kerry.sling123@gmail.com	46	
Alexis	Smith	1543 s Hanover street	Baltimore	MD	21230	lexismith78@gmail.com	46	
Taylor	Smith-Hams	4130 Mariban Ct	Baltimore	MD	21218	tsmithhams@bluewaterbaltimore.org	46	
Elizabeth	Stamas	1448 Sumwalt Court	Baltimore	MD	21230	estamas@umaryland.edu	46	
Vivian	Su	2007 E Lombard St	Baltimore	MD	21231	vsu1@jh.edu	46	
Balazs	Vagvolgyi	10 Light St Unit 3101	Baltimore	MD	21202	vagvolgyi@me.com	46	
Vonda	Wolcott	3218 Hudson Street	BALTIMORE	MD	21224	vondakvandaveer@gmail.com	46	
Brooke	Zibell	1837 E. Lombard St.	Baltimore	MD	21231	zibellbe@gmail.com	46	
Abel	Olivo	3013 Parkway	Cheverly	MD	20785-3154	abel@defensoresdelacuena.org	47A	
Ayelet	Hines	3209 Shepherd St	Mount Rainier	MD	20712-1937	ayelet.hines@gmail.com	47A	
Daniel	Immerman	1001 Chillum Rd Apt 320	Hyattsville	MD	20782-2268	dimmerman@mymcmedia.org	47A	
Joseph	Jakuta	4113 29th St	Mount Rainier	MD	20712-1821	hlinak@gmail.com	47A	
Emily	Blank	3718 Shepherd St	Brentwood	MD	20722	emilyblank@gmail.com	47A	
Katherine	Harness	3420 63rd AVE	Hyattsville	MD	20785	graceharness@rocketmail.com	47A	
Joseph	Jakuta	4113 29th Street	Mt Rainier	MD	20712	hlinak@gmail.com	47A	
Susan	McCutchen	5404 SPRING RD	Bladensburg	MD	20710	tkdmccutch@yahoo.com	47A	
Mimi	McKindley-Ward	4112 30th street	Mount Rainier	MD	20712	steveandmimi@gmail.com	47A	
rita	miles	6407 knollbrook drive	hyattsville	MD	20783	appo701@icloud.com	47A	
Karen	Moe	3010 Belleview Ave	Hyattsville	MD	20785	karen.moe@earthlink.net	47A	
Abel	Olivo	3013 Park Way	Hyattsville	MD	20785	abel@defensoresdelacuena.org	47A	
Norman	Oslin	3020 Parkway	Hyattsville	MD	20785	norman.oslik@gmail.com	47A	
Cathleen	Cooney	3019 LAKE AVE	Hyattsville	MD	20785	fortemaman@gmail.com	47A	
Sheila	Gaines	5409 Chesapeake Rd	Bladensburg	MD	20710		47A	
Kristin	Zimmer	1607 Elson St	Hyattsville	MD	20783-4340	zcounseling@gmail.com	47B	
Alejandra	Aguilar Revilla	8207 15th Pl	Hyattsville	MD	20783	ale.ag.rev@gmail.com	47B	
April	Banks	8207 15th Place	Hyattsville	MD	20783	abanks@umaryland.edu	47B	
Gustavo	Caballero	8207 15th Pl	Hyattsville	MD	20783	armysoccer2003@gmail.com	47B	
Jonathan	Caballero	8207 15th Pl	Hyattsville	MD	20783	jvc5546@gmail.com	47B	
Joshua	Hilton	6515 Belcrest Rd # 805-c	Hyattsville	MD	20782	joshua.hilton0722@gmail.com	47B	
Jean	Lee	6506 America Blvd, 307	Hyattsville	MD	20782	jeanslee51@gmail.com	47B	
Andrea	Zachary	1506 Elson St	Takoma Park	MD	20912-7019	andreazachary@gmail.com	47B	
Kristin	Zimmer	1607 Elson St.	Hyattsville	MD	20783	zcounseling@gmail.com	47B	

Alexandria	Munoz	4 Jasper Lane	Phoenixville	Pennsylvan	19460	dancer1039@gmail.com		
Kelly	Lynch	12 Valentine Lane Phoenixville,	Phoenixville	Pennsylvan	19460	klynch8595@gmail.com		
liz	kosik	214 east thomas st	Wilkes Barre	Pennsylvan	18705	emkosik@loyola.edu		
Chris	LoPresti	29 Chestnut Road	North Kingstown	Rhode Islan	2852	chrislopresti101@gmail.com		
Vanesa	Pinto	1056 Ruatan St	Bellmead	Texas	20803	milebolivia@gmail.com		
Katharine	Vogel	7 Sunset Lane	Bellmead	Texas	21614	aandkvogel@gmail.com		
reggie	fay	100 w old spring lane	Sterling	Virginia	20101	rcfay@loyola.edu		
anna	Lee	4049 Doveville Ln	Fairfax	Virginia	22032	annaeyoung@yahoo.com		
Samantha	Liffert	15085 McBryant Rd	Ruther Glen	Virginia	22546	sliffert26@gmail.com		
Anna	Furlich	4816 Knollwood Court	Virginia Beach	Virginia	23464	abfurlich@gmail.com		
Leah	Carroll	9006 Stallings Creek Dr	Smithfield	Virginia	23430	leahelizcarroll@gmail.com		
Connor	Wilkerson	1209 Westbrook Ave	Richmond	Virginia	23227	cewilkerson@loyola.edu		
Corey	Comba	124 Shamrock rd	Charlottesville	Virginia	22903	coreyc01234@gmail.com		
Quinn	Schroeder	357 Dillard	Charlottesville	Virginia	22903	schroederq@yahoo.com		
Robert	Courtemanche	17616 Burnside Ave.	Sperryville	Virginia	22740	bobcourt38@gmail.com		
Margaret	Louden	389 Goaway Rd	Hedgesville	WV	25427-7283	loudenmaggie@gmail.com		
Sharon	Davlin	327 Overbrook Road	Baltimore	MD	21212	sldavlin4@gmail.com		
Matt	Driver					timberlinets@yahoo.com		
Mike	Fountain			MD		mondofount@aol.com		
Yvonne	Akinyi	POB 9146-00200	Nairobi		200	yvonnemary95@gmail.com		
Andrew	Ashburn		Lewes	DE	19958			
Asiyah	McGoines	112 Patterson Dr	Rocky Mount	NC	27804			

SB783 Favorable Testimony docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Dave Arndt

Position: FAV

Environment Committee

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Testimony on: SB783 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: March 9, 2022

Dear Chairman, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

As a resident of Baltimore, MD, I am writing to express my strong support of SB783.

We have two incinerators within 10 miles of my house. One is for municipal wastes and the other is for medical waste. The Baltimore region ranks among the worst in the U.S. for air pollution. A study by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in 2017 found air quality in the region was ranked moderate or worse one of every three days, according to the EPA's Air Quality Index. The same study notes poor air quality triggers asthma and can cause other health issues. Little wonder then that children in Baltimore City have asthma at twice the rate of the rest of the country.

The story doesn't stop there, it continues with Plastics, the new coal. Baltimore has a single-stream recycling program. In total only 3% of plastics are recycled in Baltimore. Of the total trash collected, about 49% of it goes to the incinerator. Where it is burned, then breathed in by residents. The toxic ash is taken to the landfill, located in the same Black, Brown and low-income area. At the same time petroleum companies are ramping up production of single use plastics to offset the decline in fuel use. Thus, increasing the waste stream being burned. Incidentally, on the medical waste incinerator, NIH's medical waste used to be burned in Bethesda, but now it is burned in Baltimore - a move from a white area to a Black, Brown, and low-income area.

Something is wrong here. Everything is in "compliance", but people are dying. Current laws are either ineffective or not enforced. The people need a mechanism to make sure their health is treated with more value than corporate profits.

SB783, 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. SB492 - 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.

I strongly urge a FAVORABLE vote on SB783 to let the voters can decide.

For all of these reasons and many more, I ask that you all vote favorably and move this bill out of committee.

Thank you.

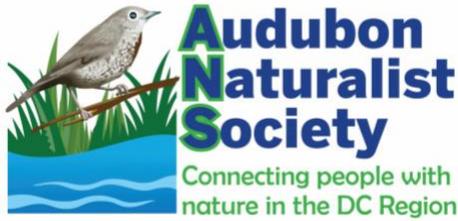
Dave Arndt

Retired Chemical Engineer and Climate, Environmental and Social Justice Advocate

2022-03-08-SB783 - ANS - FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Denisse Guitarra

Position: FAV



March 8, 2022

**Written Testimony for [SB783](#) – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights
Position: Favorable**

Dear Senate Judicial Proceedings & Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committees,

For 125 years, Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS) has inspired people to enjoy, learn about and protect nature. We thank the Senate Judicial Proceedings & Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committees for the opportunity to provide testimony for SB783 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights.

At ANS, we have worked to connect people of the Washington DC metro area with nature. Due to historically racist policies such as residential segregation, unjust siting of polluting industries, and outright exclusion from natural areas, not all residents have had equal access to or are near a clean, safe, and healthful environment. This amendment would ensure that each person has a fundamental right to a healthful environment by enshrining it in our state constitution. As we navigate today's public health, social, and economic crises, it is critical now more than ever to support the passage of SB783.

Communities of color bear a disproportionate burden of the ill effects of pollution due to toxic facilities. Over 85% of Marylanders live in counties that do not meet the EPA healthy air standards for smog pollution.¹ By allowing this amendment to be voted on by Marylanders, it will provide the opportunity to gain the tools to address and continue to dismantle historical environmental justice issues faced by communities of color and low-income communities in Maryland. The amendment will also mandate that the state needs to protect the inherent rights of nature to be safe from pollution and excess extraction for the benefit of all current and future generations.

Similar environmental amendments have been passed in other states (Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Montana, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and New York) and it has added constructively to the environmental and governmental framework of those that have adopted them.² In fact, a recent poll showed 76% of Marylander voters support this amendment.³

The passage of this bill would ensure rights to a healthful environment are protected and enforced. ANS and our 28,000 members and supporters recommend that the Senate Judicial Proceedings, & Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committees support the passage of SB783.

Sincerely,

Sean Lynch, Conservation Advocate, Audubon Naturalist Society

Denisse Guitarra, MD Conservation Advocate, Audubon Naturalist Society

¹ Sierra Club – Environmental Human Rights Amendment (factsheet). Available at: <https://www.sierraclub.org/maryland/legislation>

² Sierra Club – Environmental Human Rights Amendment. Available at: <https://www.sierraclub.org/maryland/legislation>

³ MD Campaign for Environmental Human Rights. 2022. Majority of Maryland Voters Support the Environmental Human Rights Amendment. Available at: <https://mdehr.org/majority-of-maryland-voters-support-the-environmental-human-rights-amendment/>

Woodend Sanctuary | 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815 | 301-652-9188

Rust Sanctuary | 802 Childrens Center Road, Leesburg, Virginia 20175 | 703-669-0000

anshome.org

SB783FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Dylan Snow

Position: FAV

Dylan G. F. Snow

Laytonsville, MD
(301) 956-4193
dylan.george.snow@gmail.com

March 9, 2022

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

I am writing to urge a **FAVORABLE** report on **SB 783**. I am not submitting this testimony on behalf of any organization. I am not an environmental policy expert, nor a law student. I am just a citizen who values justice. I was raised in Montgomery County, and currently attend school at Washington College in Kent County. I hope to live in this state for my whole life, and to one day raise a family here, in a state that preserves its ecosystems and recognizes the importance of a healthful environment for the wellbeing of its citizens.

Senators, the fight for sustainability and a clean environment is more than just that, **it is a fight for justice**. Countless works have been written on the disproportionate impact that climate change, pollution, and negative air and quality have on communities of color. Far too often, the concerns of those communities are ignored in our legislative and judicial systems. While we may *value* a healthful and sustainable environment, we do not guarantee it. We do not ensure that the communities that need it most have access to a healthful environment.

But how would this Bill change that? Adding this self-executing provision to the State Constitution would not only assure the right to a “healthful and sustainable environment,” but it would also ensure that the State cannot take any action to infringe that right. This amendment also directs the State to “conserve, protect, and enhance” the state’s resources for all its citizens. This amendment tells the State what not to do or tolerate, and what it needs to do.

Policies are temporary. A new Governor, Party, or Judge in power can completely shift the direction of policies. We can pass all sorts of climate change, sustainability, or conservation legislation, but at the end of the day all of that can be undone. **While policies are temporary, rights are universal.**

Passing this broad measure could give new legal arguments for those who have been harmed by environmental injustice to use in the judicial system. It

will not, however, change who has standing to file a suit, nor does it allow individuals to just sue their neighbors whenever they like. This amendment designates the State as the *trustee*, and as such is the entity responsible for ensuring these rights are being maintained.

Some may argue that this amendment would give the Judiciary authority to dictate climate policy, but to debunk that, one can look to our Mid-Atlantic neighbors. New York and Pennsylvania have already implemented “Green” Amendments, such as this, into their Constitutions. Only a handful of states have done this, and **Maryland could become a leader in the nation** if we take this step. As for the aforementioned argument on the role of the Judiciary, the New York State Bar Association did not find evidence of increased judicial activism, although courts may interpret the law in such a way that suggests a policy directive, and that is the point.

In Pennsylvania, their Environmental Rights Amendment has been interpreted in court to mean that as a trustee, their state has “a duty to duty to prohibit the degradation, diminution, and depletion of our natural resources, whether these harms might result from direct state action or from the actions of private parties,” and that the Commonwealth “must act affirmatively via legislative action to protect the environment.” Maryland, too, should be the trustee for its environment.

Senators, **it is time to guarantee our citizens the fundamental human right to a healthful and sustainable environment.** Our state has the chance to become a leader in the fight for sustainability, conservation, and justice. I strongly urge a **FAVORABLE** report on **SB 783**, and thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Dylan G. F. Snow

Washington College Class of 2023, Chestertown, MD

Resident of Laytonsville, MD

20220308 SB783HB0596 LOS mdehr.pdf

Uploaded by: Elizabeth Miller

Position: FAV



March 8, 2022

SB0783/HB0596 - Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights
Beth Miller for the Green Towson Alliance
Favorable

Dear Chair Smith, Jr. and Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, Chair Pinsky and Vice-Chair Kagan and Honorable Members of the Committees

The Green Towson Alliance (GTA) writes in support of SB0783/HB0596 Maryland Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Human Rights. We believe it is vital to guarantee each person in the State of Maryland the right to a healthful environment including clean air, water, land and a stable climate. We believe the State has a constitutional duty act as trustees of the environment for the public interest.

Too often communities of color and low-income neighborhoods bear the burden of environmental pollution and degradation. Our organization has seen this play out in Towson, Maryland where competing obligations to provide affordable housing are being used to justify the waiving of forest buffers and building setbacks. High priority forest conservation areas such as stream and wetland buffers, steep slopes and specimen trees are being cleared to make way for an affordable housing development in a historic African American Community, founded by freed slaves. This same community has suffered repeated environmental degradation from transportation and power infrastructure projects over the past 150 years.

Too often environmental laws are waived in Baltimore County. In a July 2019 survey of variances on the County website, GTA found that Countywide, of the 424 environmental variance applications listed, 354 were approved, 63 were pending, 6 were withdrawn and only 1 was denied. This amounts to an automatic awarding of variances to the benefit of developers and to the detriment of the environment.

We need the rights of Marylanders to live in a healthful environment to be enforceable and prioritized at all levels of government. Further, SB0783/HB059 Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Human Rights will provide a compelling legal impetus to strengthen environmental legislation. We urge the committee to give a favorable report on this bill and protect a healthy environment for our youth and future generations.

Best,

Elizabeth Miller

for the Green Towson Alliance

SB783_JCRC_fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Elizabeth Singer

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE
SB 783 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights
POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**By: Betsy Singer and Laura Salganik, Co-Chairs
Date: March 9, 2022**

The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Howard County supports SB 783/HB 596, the Maryland Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Human Rights 2022.

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, will 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.

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. They will provide a solid foundation for improved laws, regulations, and programs at all levels of government. 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 that have adopted them: Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Montana, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island and New York State. In fact, New York adopted its version of the amendment in November 2021, with 68.9 percent of voters approving it.

We ask that you support 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.

SB 783 - CLA Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Evan Isaacson

Position: FAV



Support for Senate Bill 783

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

The Chesapeake Legal Alliance (CLA) strongly supports SB 783, 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.

- ❖ SB 783 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.
- ❖ A favorable vote for SB 783 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 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 SB 783 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 SB 783, 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.
- ❖ SB 783 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 amendment 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.

- ❖ 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 SB 783 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.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on SB 783 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.

SB783 MD Environ Rights_TPPC fav-1.pdf

Uploaded by: Ferd Hoefner

Position: FAV

Committee: Judicial Proceedings
Testimony on: SB783 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights
Organization: Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, Social Witness & Action Committee
Submitting: Ferd Hoefner
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: March 9, 2022

The Social Witness and Action Committee of the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church strongly supports SB783– Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights. As a community of faith and an Earth Care Congregation, we believe that Maryland should place environmental rights at the highest level of Maryland law, by including it in the State’s Constitution, as is the case for freedom of speech.

The Amendment would grant all people the ability to hold state and local governments accountable for ensuring a healthy environment for everyone. As a “church for all people,” we believe that we are all equal; no one person is more important than the next person. However, we understand that some communities, particularly communities of color, have born a disproportionate burden when it comes to environmental harm. There is a moral imperative to level the playing field and provide access to environmental protection to all people in Maryland. This amendment would do precisely that by enshrining 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.”

Such a constitutional amendment would achieve many important purposes.

- To establish that environmental protection is one of the State’s highest priorities, and is available to all Marylanders as a matter of “equal protection of the laws;”
- To address disparities in environmental protection experienced by historically overburdened communities, and who experience hostile environmental conditions affecting their physical, mental and spiritual health;
- To provide a legal tool to address increasingly complex, synergistic and severe environmental threats, including industrial pollution and climate change;
- To provide a foundation for improved State laws and regulations, and to compensate for potential degradation or weakening of federal laws.

Maryland would be following in the footsteps of other states that have embraced the principle of environmental human rights by including them in their state constitutions, namely Pennsylvania, Montana, Illinois, Massachusetts, Hawaii, and most recently New York.

For all of these reasons, we ask you to vote favorably on SB783.

sb783gwen Human Rights amendment testimony22322.pd

Uploaded by: Gwen DuBois

Position: FAV



SB 0783 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

Hearing before the Judicial Proceedings Committee,
March 9, 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 BRESKO 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 SB0783

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>

2022-03-09 SB 783 (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.

410-576-6584

March 9, 2022

To: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

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

Re: SB 783 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights – **Support**

The Office of Attorney General urges this Committee to favorably report SB 783. 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. Senate Bill 783 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 Senate Bill 783.

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.).

Cleghorn MCCH Testimony SB783 WRITTEN.pdf

Uploaded by: J. Stephen Cleghorn

Position: FAV

**Hearing before
Maryland General Assembly
Judicial Proceedings Committee
and
Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
March 9, 2022
Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights (SB 783)
Position: Favorable**

**Testimony of J. Stephen Cleghorn
Baltimore Coordinator of Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home**

Dear Chair Smith, Chair Pinsky, and members of the Committees:

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 SB 783, *Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights* (SB 783). I say that backed up by more than 500 Catholics statewide who have signed a petition for passage of this bill. You have from Bob Simon of St Camillus Parish, and member of Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home, a full accounting of the groundswell of support from Maryland Catholics, so please look at that.

The language of SB 783 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). That is why the Maryland Catholic Conference, representing all Maryland Catholics in three dioceses, recommends a favorable report to get this bill passed. 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. It is only you who can put this before the voters. 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 (especially the costs 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.

For human rights to be codified in law always entails struggle, and it is no different as we finally get around to declaring that all humans have an inalienable, inalienable right to clean air, clean water, and a sustainable, healthy climate. We are finally getting around to codifying what faith-based people call a “right relation” between humankind and Nature which sustains us, which we believe is also in “right relation” to our Creator God.

Industry representatives you have heard in this hearing and on the House side, those representing CAFO poultry operations, trash burning incinerators for energy, and agribusiness monoculture grain farming, really have no good reason to oppose this Environmental Rights constitutional amendment if what they are doing does not pollute the air and water, nor produce a major portion of greenhouse gases warming the planet, or toxic emissions sickening the people. Do they not believe, as the Amendment states, that Maryland persons have an inalienable right to clean air, clean water, and a sustainable, healthful climate? Who can really be against that? 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?* If they affirm such rights, then they should not object to them being codified in law and should commit themselves to upholding them. They really have nothing to worry about if they are not causing environmental and climate harms, right?

Let me close with this piece of wisdom from farmer-poet Wendell Berry, which applies here: “Whether we and our politicians know it or not, Nature is party to all our deals and decisions, and she has more votes, a longer memory, and a sterner sense of justice than we do.”

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

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

Sierra Club Testimony EHRA 2022.pdf

Uploaded by: Jacky Grindrod

Position: FAV

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Testimony On: SB783

Submitting: Jacky Grindrod

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: March 9, 2022

I'm Jacky Grindrod and I submit this testimony in favor of the passage of the Environmental Human Rights Amendment presently before you.

We moved to Maryland in 2020 in large part because it had fresh air, wide open spaces and Assateague Island. The Environmental Human Rights Amendment is critical to preserve that natural resource bounty.

The amendment would encourage the General Assembly to pass legislation requiring the better management of plastics - to avoid the plastic blight on our state and in our waters.

Clean air, water and soil are essential elements for good health, and this amendment is the best way to ensure that Maryland never does squander its natural treasures.

I implore you, in the name of all that is fair and just, to adopt this amendment. Do not be cowed by the scare tactics being deployed by its opponents. I'm from New Jersey. I've seen what lax enforcement and disdain for environmental justice lead to. Be the heroes for the environment that only you have the power to be, and in the process, you will be heroes to every child growing up in this beautiful state.

Mayor Day SB 783 FAV Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Jacob Day

Position: FAV



City of
Salisbury
Jacob R. Day, Mayor

09 March 2022

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Testimony on: SB 783 - Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights

Position: Favorable

Dear Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

As you consider the merits of **SB 783**, I ask that you support this vital legislation and vote to give **SB 783** 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 front-lines 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. SB 783 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 **SB 783** as we work to advance environmental human rights.

Respectfully,

Jacob R. Day
Mayor

Office of the Mayor
125 N. Division St., #304 Salisbury, MD 21801
410-548-3100 (fax) 410-548-3102
www.salisbury.md

Takoma Park SB 783 Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Jamal Fox

Position: FAV



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

**SB 783
Support**

**Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Wednesday March 9, 2022
SB 783 Constitutional Amendment—Environmental Rights
City Contact:**

The City of Takoma Park supports and urges favorable consideration of this bill.

This bill would place on the November ballot an environmental human rights amendment to our State's constitution, giving each Marylander the right to a healthful and sustainable environment, no matter their background, income, color, or place of residence, and affirming that the State is trustee of our collective natural resources for future generations.

These principles ring true for residents of our City, a small community of nearly 18,000 next to Washington DC, half renters and half homeowners, with a wide range of family incomes, and over half people of color. Our diverse population and our location next to a major US city bring home, literally, the importance of an equal right to a healthful and sustainable environment for each one of us. State and regional data document that statewide, not just in Takoma Park, it is our residents of color and of lower income who bear the brunt of pollution, environmental degradation, and impacts of a changing climate, through health disparities and economic impacts.

This constitutional amendment would also provide a firm foundation for three of our City priorities—climate change and sustainability, racial equity, and healthful housing—that together capture what's important to our residents and those of communities like ours across the state. Our City declared a climate emergency in 2019, and in 2020 committed to aggressive measures to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2035. Our comprehensive housing and economic development plan prioritizes protecting local affordable housing to improve the health of all our residents. Our tree protection ordinance will help ensure a thriving and extensive tree canopy for future generations. Our City has been a leading Sustainable Maryland certified community since the program's start, and our City sustainability policies encourage, and in some cases require, individual action. And our 2017 racial equity policy commits us to view City policy and budget decisions through a racial lens, which includes working to reduce disparate health and environmental impacts.

For these reasons—the critical importance of a sustainable environment for all of our residents, addressing and slowing the impacts of climate change, and ensuring a quality environment for future generations--our City supports allowing Marylanders the opportunity to weigh in on this critical issue.

In sum, the City of Takoma Park supports SB 783, and encourages a favorable vote.

EHRA Senate Judiciary Proceedings Comm Mar 2022.pd

Uploaded by: Jodi Rose

Position: FAV

March 8, 2022

Chairman William C. Smith, Jr. and Members of the Senate Judiciary Proceedings Committee
2 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Senate Bill 783 – Environmental Human Rights Amendment

Position: **FAVORABLE**

Dear Chairman Smith and Committee Members:

The undersigned groups representing diverse communities of faith in Maryland testify our support of Senate Bill 783 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

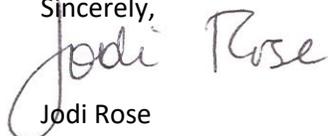
³ Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance

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

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

We ask you to move forward on SB 783 so that all Marylanders have a right to a healthy and clean environment with clean air and water. 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 blue ink 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

**Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United
Methodist Church**

Mike Koob, Chair, Creation Care Action & Advocacy
Team

**Multifaith Alliance of Climate Stewards of
Frederick County (MACS)**

Bernadette Roche, Co-Chair

Interfaith Power & Light - DMV

Joelle Novey, Executive Director
Statewide Organization

Green Muslims

Sevim Kalyoncu, Executive Director
Statewide Organization

St. Margaret's Episcopal Church

Annapolis, MD

Rev. Peter Mayer, Rector

Rev. Patti Sachs, Associate Rector

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

Bethesda, MD

Lee McNair, Co-Chair, Environmental Justice
Ministry

Oseh Shalom Congregation

Laurel, MD

Dr. Andrew Lincoln, Co-President

All Saints Lutheran Church

Bowie, MD

Rev. Angela Shannon, Pastor

Emily Demarco, Just Grace Social Justice Team

Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation

Bethesda, MD

Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb

Towson Unitarian Universalist Church

Lutherville, MD

Ms. Carel Hedlund, Co-Chair

Green Sanctuary Committee

Bethesda Presbyterian Church

Bethesda, MD

Johanna Koolemans-Beynen

Coordinator and EarthCare Administrator

Social Action Group

BaltimoreCounty_FAV_SB0783.pdf

Uploaded by: Joel Beller

Position: FAV



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

JOEL N. BELLER
Acting Director of Government Affairs

JOSHUA M. GREENBERG
Associate Director of Government Affairs

MIA R. GOGEL
Associate Director of Government Affairs

BILL NO.: Senate Bill 783

TITLE: Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

SPONSOR: Senator Smith

COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: March 9, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 783 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights. This legislation would propose an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland to establish citizen’s rights to a healthful and sustainable environment.

Baltimore County Executive John Olszewski has taken numerous steps to preserve and protect the environment for all County residents through the aggressive acquisition of open space, creating the position of Chief Sustainability Officer position to ensure all local actions receive environmental consideration, working to reforest the County through the Tree Equity Initiative and supporting the movement towards a sustainable future. The County recognizes that significant investments in combatting climate change now will save lives and mitigate potentially irreparable disasters down the road.

Senate Bill 783 proposes a constitutional amendment establishing that all citizens have a fundamental right to a healthful and sustainable environment. This amendment would also require the State to serve as the trustee of the State’s natural resources to further ensure their maintenance and protection. If passed, this amendment would be placed on the 2022 General Election ballot. The voters of Maryland have a right to decide whether the right of every resident to enjoy a healthful environment should be enshrined in their State’s constitution.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 783. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.

SB 0783 EHRA Final Testimony 03092022.pdf

Uploaded by: John Breen

Position: FAV

STATEMENT SUPPORTING MD EHRA SB 0783 Submitted March 9 2022

I am an attorney in Annapolis MD. I ask for a favorable report on SB 0783.

THESE FACTS ARE NOT IN DISPUTE.

The city of Annapolis, the harbor and the Naval Academy are threatened by sea level rise (SLR). This flooding will damage the growth and economy of your capital city. The salient facts are published in the City of Annapolis/ NSA Annapolis CLIMATE RESILIENCE CONTEXT.

EXHIBIT 1 is the title page of this report. The report is available on the city website.

Exhibit 2 holds two graphs. The **DSL R SELECTED PROJECTIONS** from est. 2030 to 2100 shows projected sea level rise with a 1 ft low on 2030 to a high of 8 ft 2100. The median level of rise at 2050 appears to estimate slr at 2050 at 1.9 - 2.0 ft. **The second design level graph suggests a seawall of 5.2 ft is required to protect the Naval Academy and Annapolis harbor.**

Exhibit 3 is a summary of two findings in the **2022 SEA LEVEL RISE TECHNICAL REPORT** published by the NOAA on their website. The Northeast coast line (includes MD) may average a slr of between 14 to 18 inches by 2050. THE NOAA report also finds **FAILURE TO CURB EMISSIONS between 2022 and 2100 could cause an additional sea level rise from 1.5 ft to 5 ft of slr for a total slr of 3.5 ft to 7 ft in 2100.**

WE CAN AGREE the duty of legislators is to protect the common good. **WE CAN AGREE** that the **OPINION WORKS POLL** finds 76 % of MD voters favor the EHRA.

Do the members of this committee have the courage to act and publicly vote on HB 0596 or are they coopted by fear? One of those fears may be fear of party discipline (unlikely in this crisis) or the fear of the costs of such remedies. The cost of remediation will likely share 50% of the burden with the NSA. The cost of doing nothing will 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 city economy will substantially fall and fail. It is clear public opinion supports passage of SB 0783, and your support.

I refer you to The WATER WILL COME by Jeff Goodell available on Kindle.

CITY OF ANNAPOLIS /
NSA ANNAPOLIS

CLIMATE RESILIENCE CONTEXT

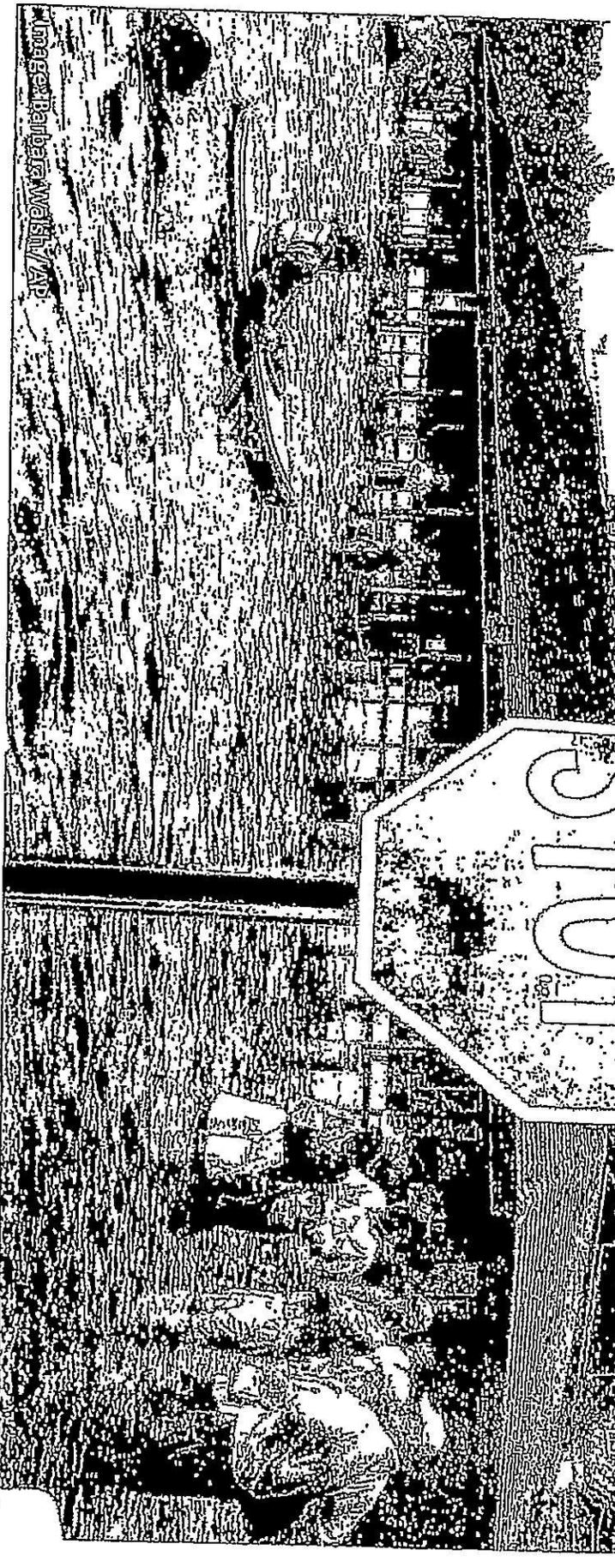
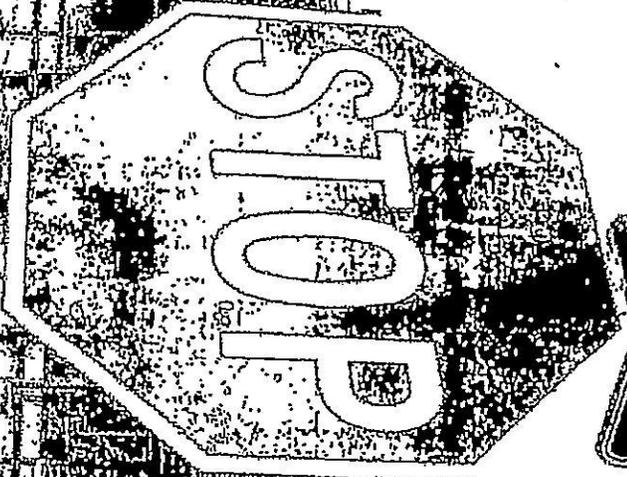
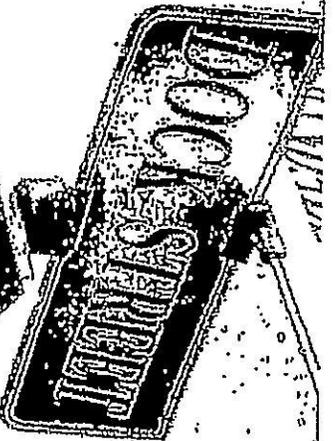


Image: Barbara Weis/ANP

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.

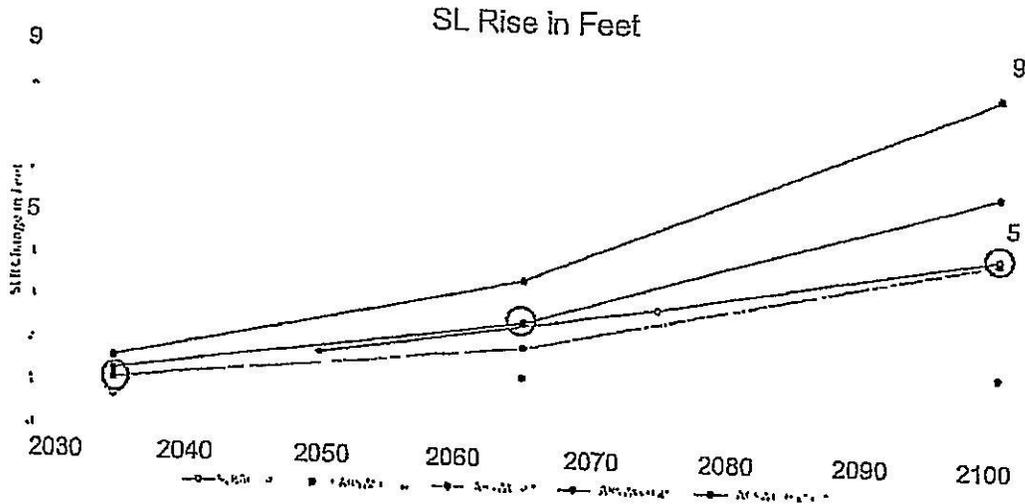
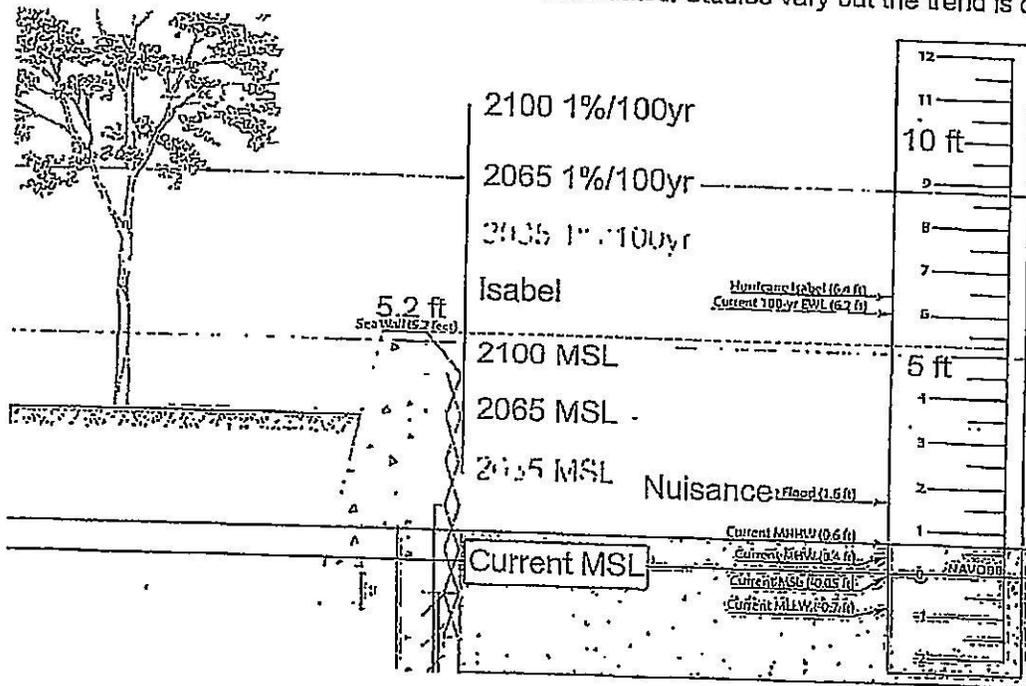


Exhibit 2. the recommended seawall is 5.2 feet above current MSL Future MSL and 100 year flood levels based on rising MSL are shown at three dates. Studies vary but the trend is clear.



NOAA REPORT

2022 SEA LEVEL RISE TECHNICAL REPORT

1

THE NEXT 30 YEARS

Sea Level Rise along the U.S. Coast Line is projected to rise, on average, 10 -12 inches 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 US coasts because of changes in both land and sea level height.

Rise in the next three decades (to 2050) is anticipated to be, on average: 10 to 14 inches for the East coast

3

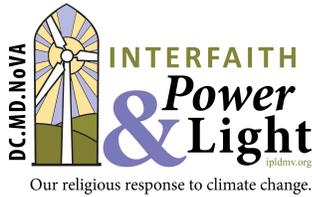
EMISSIONS MATTER

Current and future emissions matter. About 2 feet 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 to 5 feet of seal level rise for a total of 3.5 -7 ft by the end of the century (2100).

Testimony for IPL on SB 783 - 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
March 8, 2022

Testimony on SB 783 –
SB 783: Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights
Judicial Proceedings Committee

Position: Favorable

Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA) supports SB 783.

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:

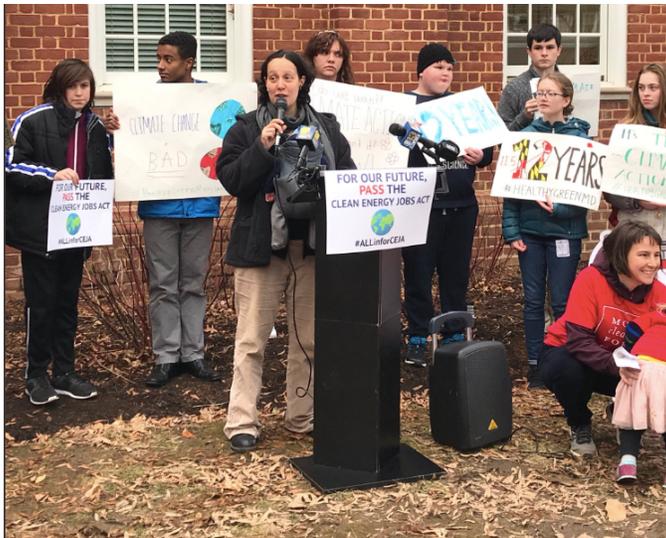
- **Clean air and water are blessings entrusted to us** – This amendment supports all other protections for health and the environment. By affirming a right to a healthy environment, we are expressing the calling of all our faiths to protect and steward our home places.
- **Ensuring healthy communities 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 SB 783 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.”

SB0783 - EHRA - Testimony - Climate Parents of Pri

Uploaded by: Joseph Jakuta

Position: FAV

Committee: Environment and Transportation
Testimony on: SB 783 - "Environmental Human Rights Amendment"
Organization: Climate Parents of Prince George's
Person Submitting: Joseph Jakuta, Lead Volunteer
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: March 9, 2022



Dear Mr. Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for considering our testimony today in support of SB 783 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.

SB 783, 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 SB 783 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.

SB783_MDSierraClub_fav - 9Mar2022.pdf

Uploaded by: Josh Tulkin

Position: FAV



P.O. Box 278
Riverdale, MD 20738

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Testimony on: SB 783 – “Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights”

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: March 9, 2022

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club strongly supports SB 783, which would add Article 48 to the Maryland Declaration of Rights, establishing the right of all Marylanders to a healthful and sustainable environment. 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. If approved by the voters in November, Maryland will be joining the majority of the states by addressing environmental quality and natural resources concerns in its state constitution.

Amending the Constitution is a serious matter, and we appreciate the attention that the Committee is providing it. 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?

Why does the State Constitution need an environmental rights amendment?

Article 48 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 Article 48 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.

Subsections (A) and (B) elevate a right that was first recognized in 1973 as a matter of Maryland statutory law to the Declaration of Rights: 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.

Founded in 1892, the Sierra Club is America’s oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization. The Maryland Chapter has over 70,000 members and supporters, and the Sierra Club nationwide has over 800,000 members and nearly four million supporters.

Subsection (C) recognizes that Maryland's natural resources are a public trust and that it is the State's responsibility as trustee to conserve, protect, and enhance those natural resources for the benefit of not just present but also future generations. 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.

As Americans, 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. In the more than two centuries since they were established, our constitutional rights have persisted. They are bedrock guardrails to our Nation and State, and they shape the way we as Americans and Marylanders interact with each other and govern. The same applies to our State Declaration of Rights.

We likewise believe that all Members of this Committee want to leave this generation and future generations a State that is healthful and sustainable. Unfortunately, we are on track to leave our children, our grandchildren, and future generations an environment that is seriously degraded. Most of our residents live in communities with harmful air quality¹ and many, if not most, of our water bodies are impaired.² Even with the Maryland Environmental Policy Act and dozens of other supporting significant pieces of legislation, we have not done nearly as good a job protecting the environment as we have done protecting our State Declaration of Rights and Federal Bill of Rights freedoms.

Article 48 is more than a statement of principles. It will be an important part of Maryland law. Above all, like our Bill of Rights and other provisions of Maryland's Declaration of Rights, it will serve as a guardrail to prevent egregious nonperformance or malperformance by the State. As an example, the amendment would provide heightened scrutiny in cases where the executive branch of the State declines to implement or enforce environmental laws and regulations that are on the books. We are not seeking the amendment as a backdoor approach to achieve specific environmental outcomes. However, we and respected state officials have observed situations where pollution violations have repeatedly occurred. This could happen in the future, as well, and the amendment would set a high bar for the executive branch to justify that its discretion outweighs the need to enforce the existing law.

In addition, the amendment would prevent bans and waivers of environmental analyses and regulations that are needed to provide Maryland residents a healthful and sustainable environment. This is how similar constitutional provisions have been used in other states. For example, in Montana, a state law preventing the state's Department of Environmental Quality from regulating arsenic discharges from a mine was found to be unconstitutional³. In Pennsylvania, a state law prohibiting local jurisdictions from regulating fracking to protect local water supplies, was found to be unconstitutional.⁴

¹ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Maryland Nonattainment/Maintenance Status for Each County by Year for All Criteria Pollutants, Feb. 28, 2022. https://www3.epa.gov/airquality/greenbook/anayo_md.html

² Maryland's Draft Combined 2020-2022 Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality, Dec. 6, 2021. Table 6, 15, 19, and 25. https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/TMDL/Integrated303dReports/Documents/Integrated_Report_Section_P_DFs/IR_2020_2022/2020_2022IR_Parts_A_E.pdf

³ Montana Environmental Information Center v. Department of Environmental Quality, 296 Mont. 207 (Mont. 1999), 1999 MT 248, 988 P.2d 1236, <https://casetext.com/case/meic-v-dep-of-env-quality>.

⁴ "Robinson Township. v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. 83 A. 3d 901 (2013), <https://casetext.com/case/robinson-twp-v-pa-pub-util-commn>

Finally, because minority and low-income communities are most likely to experience degraded and unhealthful environments, the amendment could help promote environmental justice and equity. While the State and Nation currently are currently sustaining and expanding environmental protections, we also recognize that leaders and political winds can change. Article 48 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 difficult- or 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 constitutional environmental rights.

First, as noted by the Office of the Attorney General in its recent letter supporting enactment of the HB 596, the cross-file to SB 783, 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. The Office of the Attorney General noted that:

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).⁵

Second, courts generally base their decisions upon statutory authorities before deciding cases based on constitutional provisions. Because of that, 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. As noted earlier, in one case, a Montana law prohibited the State government from considering arsenic pollution of a river near Yellowstone National Park. The law 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 involved trivial litigation or judicial overreach, and both resulted in meaningful protection of public health.

Article 48 would not be useful, in contrast, for parties seeking to overturn thoughtfully implemented policies such as transit oriented development that creates vibrant communities or zoning changes to permit installation of solar panels on agricultural land. Neither of these actions would create threats to a healthful environment or a sustainable environment.

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. We are confident that Maryland's courts will not 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 provision. Of

⁵ Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer, Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General, "HB 596 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights – Support," To the Honorable Kumar P. Barve Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee, February 23, 2022.

those, six state constitutions have been amended since the 1970s to confer a personal right to a healthy environment.⁶ As indicated above, the experience in those other states has been that constitutional environmental rights and authorities are highly beneficial from a policy perspective, providing a clear statement of the states' overarching values, and have been used only occasionally in litigation. In the five decades that those states have had their provisions in effect, few court 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 this amendment 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.

Conclusion

We believe that the merits of Article 48 are very well supported by legal analysis and practical experience. It would provide important, long-term protections that warrant elevation to our State's Constitution. Like other constitutional provisions, it will establish clear guardrails that have lasting value and reflect broadly shared principles. There is no evidence from decades of experience that Article 48 will produce counterproductive or inappropriate impacts.

Our views on the merits of Article 48 are widely shared. With our partners we have gained the endorsement of the State of Maryland Office of the Attorney General, elected officials, over 150 organizations, and thousands of individuals in Maryland. What is particularly impressive is the breadth of social justice, environmental, labor, 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, and a very diverse set of faith-based groups.⁷ The breadth and thoughtful, public-spirited nature of the support for Article 48 is meaningful and noteworthy.

We urge the Committee to join us and this impressively representative group of officials, individuals, and entities and support passage of SB 783 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

⁶ 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.

⁷ <https://mdehr.org/amendment/amendment-support/>

Senate EHRA Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Joyce Cheng

Position: FAV

March 8, 2022

Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: **SUPPORT** -- SB0783 -- CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT - ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

Dear Chairman Smith, Chairman Pinsky, and Members of the Committees:

On behalf of the Planetary Health Alliance student group at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, we offer this testimony in support of SB0783. **We strongly support SB0783**, 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

Address:
1600 McElderry St
Baltimore, MD 21205

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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MOS SB0783 Constitutional Amendment-Environmental

Uploaded by: Kurt Schwarz

Position: FAV



March 9, 2022

SB0783: Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

Position: Support

The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) whole-heartedly supports HB0791: Constitutional Amendment—Environmental Rights. We ask that the Senate Judicial Proceedings 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 SB0783: 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>

7329 Wildwood Ct.
Columbia, MD 21046
410-461-1643
krschwa1@verizon.net

NPCA Letter in Support of the MD Environmental Hum

Uploaded by: Kyle Hart

Position: FAV



**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,

Kyle W. Hart
Field Representative, Mid-Atlantic Region
National Parks Conservation Association
777 6th St., N.W., #700
Washington, DC 20001
khart@npca.org | 202-400-1193

SB783-MDEnvironHumanRights-JPR-CJW-fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Laurie McGilvray

Position: FAV



Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Testimony on: SB783 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

Organization: Climate Justice Wing of the Maryland Legislative Coalition

Submitting: Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: March 9, 2022

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony in support of SB783 – 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 SB783.

SB783, 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 and can take years. Second, even though Maryland has strong environmental laws, they may not be adequately implemented or enforced. A case in point is “zombie permits.” SB492 - 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. Voters in New York approved environmental rights language last November, bringing the total to six states with constitutional environmental rights. Experience has shown that number of environmental lawsuits don't explode in states with environmental rights in their Constitutions. Bringing a lawsuit is hard and expensive, as clearly described in *Amity and Prosperity*, a true story about families in Southeastern Pennsylvania being poisoned by fracking. Cases in other states aimed to protect citizens from environmental harm when state environmental agencies have failed to do so or existing laws were insufficient or flawed. Marylanders deserve similar rights and protections that other states provide in their constitutions.

Let the Voters Decide

Passing SB783 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 SB783 so Maryland voters can decide if they want to add environmental human rights to their Constitution.

SB783-MDEnvironHumanRights-JPR-TPMEC-fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Laurie McGilvray

Position: FAV



Environment Committee

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Testimony on: SB783 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

Organization: Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee

Submitting: Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: March 9, 2022

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

We are pleased to submit testimony in favor of SB783 – 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 SB783.

SB783, 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. SB492 - 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 SB783 to let the voters can decide.

sb783, 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
Judicial Proceedings Committee
and
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
on
Senate Bill 783
March 9, 2022
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairmen and members of these Committees, 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: stewardship of natural resources and processes, while a matter of the human ethos, is also a spiritual matter; because all living things are within the vital web called nature. Nature is simply not ours. It is a universal given; it is providential.

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 hold providence in 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 proposal represented by **Senate Bill 783** has become influential environmental advocacy: namely, a specified human right to a safe environment stated as constitutional law. We support it. Legal standing in defense of a right to the blessings of this life is a public and a moral good. It can assist protecting the natural context from exploitation and degradation. And it may provide a platform to address an obvious social inequity.

Members of the Committees, and the General Assembly, will know why. Environmental threats to health and safety are public concerns. Toxins, hazards, pollution of air, water, and soil are regular subjects for 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 everyone'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 from current religious organizations, but from spiritual understandings 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. Please give **Senate Bill 783** a favorable report.

Lee Hudson

Testimony - SB0783 - Maryland Environmental Rights

Uploaded by: Lee McNair

Position: FAV

March 07, 2022

SB0783 - 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 SB0783 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. SB0783 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 SB783 and requests a FAVORABLE

decision in committee. Thank you.

Page 2 of 2

HB596 SB783 testimony 2022 EHRA jp and ehea comms.

Uploaded by: Linda Boyd

Position: FAV



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

SUPPORT

HB 596/SB783

Constitutional Amendment-Environmental Rights
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Good afternoon Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, and Chair Pinsky, and Vice-Chair Kagan, members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, my name is Linda Boyd and today, I submit testimony on behalf of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland that represents 108 parishes and over 45,000 parishioners throughout Maryland. We support SB 783.

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 the State to 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 residents. It is wrong for the State to put the interests of industry over the health of its residents, especially low income and minority communities. This amendment would legally protect their rights and all Marylanders' rights to live in a healthy environment.

We respectfully request a favorable report.

SB783- EHR - Judic Proc - GCAN-FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Lore Rosenthal

Position: FAV



Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Testimony on: SB783 Environmental Human Rights Amendment

Organization: Greenbelt Climate Action Network

Submitting: Kathleen Bartolomeo

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: Wed, March 9

Dear Chairman and Committee Members:

The Greenbelt Climate Action Network (GCAN) is writing in **support of SB783 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 SB783** Environmental Human Rights Amendment.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Bartolomeo, Volunteer
Greenbelt Climate Action Network

Luca Grifo-Hahn_Environmental Rights Amendment Wri

Uploaded by: Luca Grifo-Hahn

Position: FAV

To: Maryland State Senate Committee on Judicial Proceedings
From: Luca Grifo-Hahn
Date: Wednesday, March 9, 2022
Re: Strong support for SB0783 – The Environmental Rights Constitutional Amendment

Dear Chairman Will Smith and Respected Committee Members,

I am writing you in support of Senate Bill 0783, The Environmental Rights Constitutional Amendment, and in support of democracy. While I work with and am associated with a number of environmental, social justice, and advocacy organizations throughout Maryland, I am submitting this testimony simply as a concerned youth in Maryland. Simply put, it is the youngest generations that will be dealing with the impacts of climate change the longest and will be seeing its most intense fallout. We will need tools like this amendment to help deal with these ramifications.

The implications of the Environmental Rights Amendment are simple and clear. They will establish that all Marylanders, regardless of class, ethnicity or background, will have a fundamental right to clean air, clean water, a healthy environment and a stable climate. It would also establish the state as trustee of Maryland's natural resources and commit them to conserve, protect, and enhance them for current and future generations. It will elevate the right to a clean environment to be on par with other fundamental rights that are crucial to a flourishing democracy such as freedom of religion, speech, and assembly and act as a tool to give people legal standing and guide future agency and government action¹.

We know that pollution and environmental degradation have adverse effects on human populations. There are ample studies demonstrating the dizzying diversity of ways that climate change affects and disenfranchises the youth². As an example, higher levels of air pollution have been demonstrated to be associated with preterm birth, low birth weight and stillbirth³. When we allow others to degrade our environment, we are affecting the success of generations that have no way to defend or advocate for themselves.

While the legislators of Maryland have often been at the forefront of the environmental movement, we are unfortunately lacking in the area of a Constitutional right to environmental security. Seven states have already passed an amendment codifying the right to a healthful environment⁴. Fortunately, we can use the experiences of these other states to demonstrate how the amendment will play out in Maryland, and what it could specifically mean for my generation. For instance, in the 1960s, Pennsylvania passed their own Environmental Bill of Rights. Almost fifty years after its passage, it was used in the *Robinson Township vs. Common Wealth of Pennsylvania* court case⁵. In this case, a community was able to turn a fracking operation away, as they were able to prove it would infringe upon their healthy environment.

Thanks to our enterprising and proactive legislature, we do not have to worry about fracking specifically here in the State of Maryland. However, the Robinson Township case is significant

¹<https://mdehr.org/>

²<https://www.Mdpi.com/1660-4601/9/9/3298>

³<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2767260>

⁴<https://mdehr.org/>

⁵<https://delawarelaw.widener.edu/files/resources/robinsonwp2013editedmay1.pdf>

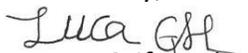
because, when it was passed in the 1960s, nobody had ever heard of fracking. Yet, fifty years later, it was able to be used proactively by concerned residents to protect themselves from the environmental ills of fracking. We do not know what environmental threats my generation or the generations that follow will be facing in the next fifty years, but it is without a doubt that new threats and problems will emerge as climate change continues, environmental racism exacerbates, biodiversity withers, and pollution increases. My generation does not view these things as potential issues in the future, but as certainties that we or our children will be left to deal with. At this point, we have come to expect and accept this as reality, but we have also accepted the reality that we will need tools, such as the Environmental Human Rights Amendment, in order to properly address, defend, and thwart these unknown threats as they arise. The Robinson Township case represents an example from the past few decades of exactly how this might play out in Maryland.

Although the merits of the amendment itself are boundless, at the end of the day, this amendment is about more than just environmentalism or civil rights. It's about democracy. As you are aware, a constitutional amendment requires a favorable vote from 3/5ths of both houses of the legislature before going directly to referendum in the next general election. So, the final say in a matter like this comes from the people⁶. Therefore, the role of the legislature is to determine whether or not this amendment should be put on the ballots in front of the people of Maryland to decide in November. For this reason, not passing this bill through your committee and the Senate would not only be a disservice to the environment, our civil rights, and the anti-racism movement, but would also be a clear affront on the democratic process.

As a Maryland resident and voter, I urge every member of this committee to vote favorably on this amendment. All concerns and reservations that have been brought up on this amendment have been addressed by constitutional lawyers, activists, politicians and other experts⁷. It is now that we are ready to vote on it. Give the people of Maryland, like myself, the opportunity to take our environmental future into our hands come November by giving it a favorable review.

Thank you for considering this legislation and for taking the environmental health of Marylanders seriously. I am happy to follow up and discuss any concerns or questions you may have about the finer points and implications of this legislation. I look forward to watching this amendment progress and to seeing it on the ballot in November.

Sincerely,


Luca Grifo-Hahn

⁶ <https://mdehr.org/amendment/how-to-pass-a-constitutional-amendment/#:~:text=The%20amendment%20is%20introduced%20as,in%20just%20one%20legislative%20session.>

⁷ https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Committees/Media/false?cmte=ent&clip=ENV_2_23_2022_meeting_1&ys=2022rs

SB 0783_mdg_fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Mary Gaut

Position: FAV

SB 0783
Mary D Gaut
Favorable

For years I have worked with Presbyterian congregations in Maryland as they seek ways to more fully embrace what we believe is a divine mandate to care for each other and for the world that was created and still is good. Those who I talk to know deep in their hearts that this is not an optional faith practice. It is a core understanding of who we are and how we are to live. They become frustrated when public debate frames issues in terms winners and losers. They instinctively know that when it comes to issues of public health and environmental sustainability thoughtful and robust action creates only winners.

The beauty of this proposed amendment is that it is unambivalent and framed in the language of core the values of caring for the other as much as we care for ourselves...something shared by all major religious traditions, not just my own. When this is recognized as a priority and is accepted as the non-negotiable standard of community organization, it is much easier to work through the economic and regulatory details.

The late Stephen Covey included in his famous “7 Habits of Effective People, the essential practice of “putting first things first,” “making the main thing the main thing,” and letting policy and program flow from that. The state constitution is where we enshrine the MAIN things. And guaranteeing the fundamental right to a healthy and sustainable environment for all, including future generations, is surely a MAIN thing.

The citizens of Maryland should have the chance to affirm this core value and place it where it belongs...at the constitutional level. We the people should be granted the opportunity to say aloud what we truly believe: that, in the language of the amendment: *every person has the fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment. ...and that the state’s natural resources must be conserved for the benefit of every person, including present and future generations.*

To refuse to let this amendment come before the voters is essentially to say that some people do not deserve clean air and water and that it is OK for them to be sacrificed to the self-interest of others. I want to trust that this is not what this committee or the General Assembly will conclude. If it is, it is a tragic moment which will compromise the lives of generations to come.

Rev. Mary D Gaut
Parish Associate Towson Presbyterian Church
Former Chair Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake

SB 783_mgoldstein_fav 2022.pdf

Uploaded by: Mathew Goldstein

Position: FAV



March 09, 2022

SB 783 - SUPPORT

Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Moon, and Members of the Judiciary 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, Kioumourtzoglou MA, Zanobetti A. Long-term effects of PM2.5 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

Balt Sust Commn - SB783 Enviro Rights.pdf

Uploaded by: Miriam Avins

Position: FAV

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

MD Catholic Conference_FAV_SB0783.pdf

Uploaded by: MJ Kraska

Position: FAV



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

March 9, 2022

SB 783

Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights

**Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Senate Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs**

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.

Senate Bill 783 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.

Senate Bill 783 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 Senate Bill 783.

Environmental Human Rights Amendt.pdf

Uploaded by: nanci Wilkinson

Position: FAV

Committee: Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

Legislation: SB 0783 (cross filed with 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: March 9, 2022

Dear Committee Chair and Committee Members.

The Environmental Justice Ministry Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist supports SB 0783 (cross filed as HB 0596) 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

SB783 AG office favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Cardin

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.

410-576-6584

March 9, 2022

To: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

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

Re: SB 783 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights – **Support**

The Office of Attorney General urges this Committee to favorably report SB 783. 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. Senate Bill 783 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 Senate Bill 783.

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.).

SB783 Cleo Braver favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Cardin

Position: FAV

Senate Judiciary Committee and Education, Health and Environmental Affairs
SB783 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Human Rights Amendment
Hearing: March 9, 2022
Favorable

-Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice-Chair, Honorable Members of the Committee-

-My name is Cleo Braver. My husband and I own and farm Cottingham Farm in Talbot County. We grow vegetables, herbs and pastured meats which we sell at our farm store, at farmers' markets, restaurants, and through a food service organization to institutions.

-We are very much in support of this constitutional amendment, the recognition of the right of all Marylanders to a healthy environment, and the emerging recognition and promotion of regenerative agriculture and the role it can play.

-The MD farming community often expresses the importance of its stewardship of the land and the Chesapeake Bay. It gives the agricultural community pride to say that our goal is to farm in a way that is protective of the resources that belong to the landowner, the farmer and to all of us.

-Because this is the case, the farming community should have no objection to a constitutional amendment which recognizes our collective interest – and really only asks that citizens be permitted a voice in the matter.

-Maryland's food producers know that healthy people require healthy plants and animals and that those I turn require healthy soils. That we now know that carbon can be stored in healthy soils and reverse climate change magnifies the importance of getting this right and recognizing truly regenerative practices, both in farming and in other areas.

-We have an inherent obligation to protect our soil from physical, biological and chemical disturbances, to be more bio-diverse, to protect our waterways from chemicals, synthetics and sediment runoff, to protect our climate from irreversible change, to protect our earth and each other.

-Natural resource scarcity is in our future unless we as farmers and you as legislators move us in the right direction. Stating our intentions is a good start.

sb783 mdehr favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Cardin

Position: FAV



Judicial Proceedings and Education, Health and Environmental Affairs
SB783 Constitutional Amendment: Environmental Rights
Hearing Date: March 9, 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 Senate Judicial Proceedings and Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committees 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.

Contributing Authors:

Diane Curran, HarmonCurran law firm

Barry Hill, Adjunct Professor of Law at Vermont Law School, author of *Environmental Justice: Legal Theory and Practice*, and served as director of the Office of Environmental Justice at the EPA (1998-2007)

Rachel M. Hopp, former National Pollution Funds Center Legislative and Regulatory Counsel, Acid Rain Advisory Committee Co-Chair and program manager, and U.S. EPA treaty negotiator and enforcement counsel

Matthew Littleton, Donahue, Goldberg & Littleton

James May, Distinguished Professor of Law and Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Dignity Rights Project and the Environmental Rights Institute at Widener University Delaware Law School.

Martin Siegel, former litigator at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

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. & Envtl. L. 73 (2002); Franklin Kury, *THE CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION TO SAVE THE PLANET* 165-77 (Envtl. 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 Envtl. 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 (Envtl. 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. *Envtl. Prot. Agency*, *CLIMATE CHANGE AND SOCIAL VULNERABILITY IN THE UNITED STATES: A FOCUS ON SIX IMPACTS* (2021).

⁵² U.S. *Envtl. 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 *Envtl. 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.

SB783 nina beth cardin fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Cardin

Position: FAV



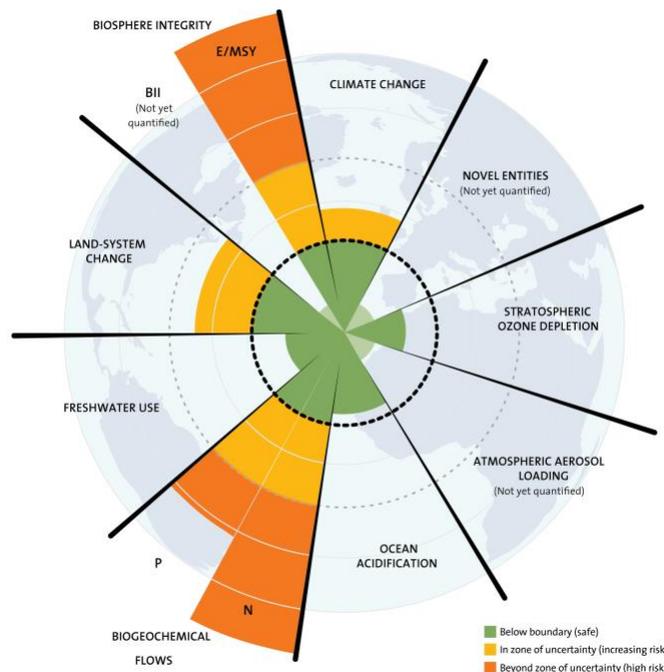
SB783 Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights
Judicial Proceedings and Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committees
Position: FAVORABLE
Hearing Date 3.9.2022

Dear Chairman Smith, Chairman Pinsky, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, Vice-Chair Kagan and Honorable Members of the Committees,

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 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.



J. Lokrantz/Azote based on Steffen et al. 2015. <https://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/planetary-boundaries.html>

We now know what we need to do, technologically, culturally 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.

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 the General Assembly passes, to encourage the consideration and passage of additional laws over time despite the political winds that blow and in response to the emergence of unforeseen developments, and we need this amendment to ensure the effective and equitable enforcement of those laws.

Other written testimonies to SB783 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.

It is time to recognize it here in Maryland too. With your help, we can.

Nina Beth Cardin, Director
Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human Rights

SB783 Percival favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Cardin

Position: FAV

PROFESSOR ROBERT PERCIVAL
SB783 "CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS"

Hearing Date: March 9, 2022
Favorable

I am Robert Percival, the Robert Stanton Professor of Law and Director of the Environmental Law Program at the University of Maryland Carey School of Law. I have taught at the law school since 1987 when Maryland became one of the first law schools to launch an Environmental Law Program. I teach Environmental Law, Constitutional Law, and Global Environmental Law and I have written extensively on each of these topics.

More than seven years ago Rabbi Nina Cardin contacted me seeking advice on the status of environmental provisions in national and state constitutions. Working with students in my Global Environmental Law seminar, we researched the status of constitutional provisions dealing with the environment. We found that during the last half century nearly every country that has adopted a new constitution or extensively revised its existing constitution has included an environmental provision. Although the U.S. Constitution does not address the environment, more than twenty state constitutions do. Last fall New York voters overwhelmingly approved adding an environmental rights provision to the New York Constitution. Several other states also are considering such amendments.

I support the Environmental Amendment embodied in Senate Bill 783. The proposed amendment is the culmination of more than seven years of careful work to craft an environmental amendment for the Maryland Constitution. Adoption of this amendment is important for several reasons. First, it makes a powerful statement concerning the importance of environmental protection for all Marylanders and the need to consider the interests of future generations not represented in the political process. Second, it strengthens the ability of all branches of Maryland government to protect the environment against environmental threats. Third, it provides insurance against unexpected future threats to Maryland's environment from other states or even the federal government.

While the Maryland amendment will not magically transform the state's environment, it will add an important new tool to the state's legal arsenal to protect it. Experience with similar constitutional provisions in other states has demonstrated their value. An amendment has powerful symbolic and practical impact and they have not spawned a flood of litigation. When special interests sought to strip cities and counties of their right to maintain basic health and safety protections, Pennsylvania's environmental amendment came to the rescue. We live in volatile political times. A little more than a year ago the federal government was hellbent on rolling back federal environmental protections, and even in some cases to deny states the power to protect their own environment. We now have a Supreme Court embracing novel legal theories to undermine important health and safety legislation. The Environmental Human

Rights Amendment will strengthen Maryland's ability to protect the state's environment from external assaults now and in the future.

The time has come for the Maryland General Assembly to recognize the environmental rights of all the state's residents by giving Maryland voters an opportunity to endorse the Environmental Human Rights Amendment.

SB783 Rachel Hopp fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Cardin

Position: FAV

COMMITTEE: JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS and EDUCATION, HEALTH and ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEES

TESTIMONY ON: SB 783 – CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

HEARING DATE: MARCH 9, 2022

SUBMITTER: RACHEL M. HOPP, ESQ., GAITHERSBURG, MD

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair, and
Jeffrey D. Waldstreicher, Vice-Chair,
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair, and
Cheryl Kagan, Vice-Chair
Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

Dear Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Honorable Members of the Committees:

I write to urge you to vote favorably for SB 783 – CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT - ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS. I do so both as a resident of our beautiful state and as an experienced environmental law practitioner.¹

If passed the session by both chambers of the Maryland General Assembly, and supported by the voters in November, this important bill will add Article 48 to the Maryland Declaration of Rights, elevating protections and State responsibilities that are already reflected in Maryland statutory and common law to the level of constitutional authority. Article 48 provides 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.

¹ I am also a member of the Advisory Circle for the Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human Rights, a coalition of civic leaders, elected officials, individuals, and organizations advocating for this legislation. See, MDEHR.org. The views expressed here, however, are my own.

(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.

Importantly, Article 48 has been reviewed by many legal experts and civic leaders, it has been considered in the light of the nearly 50 years of experience with similar provisions in other state constitutions, and the implications are well understood and overwhelmingly beneficial. Above all, like other Maryland Declaration of Rights provisions, Article 48 will establish clear, enduring guardrails to ensure a healthful environment for all Marylanders now and in the future.

For those reasons, Article 48 is supported by the State of Maryland Office of the Attorney General,² and by a long list of other Maryland elected officials, civic leaders, and organizations.³

⁴ It also has the support of 76% of Maryland's voters.⁵

This legislation deserves your full support.

Informing Background and Research

² See, Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer, Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General, "HB 596 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights – Support," To the Honorable Kumar P. Barve Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee, February 23, 2022. [Opinion supporting HB 596, the cross-file to SB 783.]

³ See MDEHR.org

⁴ SB 783 has 15 co-sponsors. Its cross-filed bill HB596 has 29 co-sponsors.

⁵ Memorandum to Nina Beth Cardin, Director, Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human Rights from Steve Raabe, President, OpinionWorks LLC, dated January 18, 2022, Subject: *Maryland Poll Findings: Environmental Human Rights Amendment*, enclosed. For more information go to MDEHR.org.

My support and views for SB 783 are informed by my prior professional experience, informative research and consultations I have had with some of our foremost experts on environmental constitutionalism and environmental justice.

My background includes leadership positions working on some of our most challenging national, state, and global, environmental and health issues, including climate change, air, oil and water pollution, natural resources damage, sustainable development, and environmental justice. I was a lead architect of the 1990 Clean Air Act, and a U.S. EPA program manager, environmental treaty negotiator and enforcement counsel. I was also principal of the Law Offices of Hopp and Associates, PLLC, and advised and represented international organizations, public utilities, businesses, and disparately impacted communities. Before retiring in 2017, I was Legislative and Regulatory Counsel to the National Pollution Funds Center and was centrally involved in the U.S. responses to major environmental disasters including Deepwater Horizon, Athos I, and Katrina. I have taught and written on many environmental law topics and am admitted to practice in Maryland and the District of Columbia.

My research about this legislation has included reviews of Maryland environment and natural resources law, and the constitutional environmental provisions of other jurisdictions. I have also consulted with, and delved into, the thoughtful body of work of many leading experts including:

- former Pennsylvania Senator The Hon. Franklin L. Kury;⁶
- Professor John C. Dernbach, Widener University Commonwealth Law School;⁷
- Professor James May, Widener University Delaware Law School;⁸
- Professor Barry Hill, Adjunct Professor, Vermont Law School, and former Director of U.S. EPA's Office of Environmental Justice;⁹

⁶ Sen. Kury was the lead sponsor the legislation that elevated environmental rights to the Pennsylvania Constitution and is author of the recent very accessible book *The Constitutional Question to Save the Planet* (Environmental Law Institute, 2021).

⁷ See, e.g., John C. Dernbach and Edmund J. Sonnenberg, *A Legislative History of Article 1, Section 27 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Showing Source Documents*, Widener Law School Legal Studies Research Paper Series no. 14-18 . Available at: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2474660 (last viewed Mar 8, 2022)

⁸ See, e.g., *Environmental Rights in State Constitutions: PRINCIPLES OF CONSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW*, p. 305, James R. May, ed., American Bar Association, 2011, Widener Law School Legal Studies Research Paper No. 11-47, available at https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1932753 (last viewed 1/5/2021).

⁹ See, e.g., Barry E. Hill *Environmental Justice: Legal Theory and Practice*, 4th Edition, Environmental Law Institute (2018); *Environmental Justice for All Must Be a Human Right Enforceable in U.S. State Constitutions*

- Montana constitutional environmental law expert and landmark case litigator, Roger Sullivan, Senior Partner, McGarvey Law;
- Maya K. Van Rossum;¹⁰
- Professor Russell B. Stevenson Jr., Georgetown University Law Center and one of our foremost experts on the Maryland Environmental Policy Act;¹¹
- Professor David R. Boyd, Associate Professor of Law, Policy, and Sustainability at the University of British Columbia;¹² and
- Professor Robert V. Percival at the University of Maryland School of Law.¹³

I urge you to become familiar with the contributions of these experts to better understand the now well-understood beneficial impacts of constitutional-level environmental protections.

Article 48 Will Complement and Strengthen Our Environmental Laws

The Maryland Constitution is one of only a handful of state constitutions that do not address the environment or natural resources in any way.¹⁴ SB 783 will change that!

This important Article complements and strengthens existing Maryland law, filling gaps while preserving long-established principles of separation of powers. As noted by the Office of the Attorney General's recent letter of support,¹⁵ Article 48 focuses on individual rights and the State's responsibilities:

- Subsection (A) recognizes a right that was first recognized in the Maryland Environmental Policy Act passed in 1973: that every person has a fundamental and

Barry E. Hill; *Bending the Arc Toward Justice*, Barry E. Hill - Vermont Law School, ELI Environmental Forum, Vol. 37, Issue 4 (July-August 2020).

¹⁰ Maya K. Van Rossum, *The Green Amendment: Securing Our Right to a Healthy Environment*.

¹¹ Russell B. Stevenson Jr., *The Maryland Environmental Policy Act: Resurrecting a Tool for Environmental Protection*, 45 ELR 10074 (1-2015).

¹² David R. Boyd, *The Constitutional Right to a Healthy Environment* (February 28, 2013), last viewed on 1/5/2021 at <https://www.lawnow.org/right-to-healthy-environment>.

¹³ Robert V. Percival, *"Greening" the Constitution - Harmonizing Environmental and Constitutional Values* (2002) available at https://digitalcommons.law.umaryland.edu/fac_pubs/439.

¹⁴ Thirty-six (36) state constitutions include provisions concerning the environment or natural resources. Of those, seven recognize an individual right to a healthy environment. Others concern the public trust responsibilities of the state, and the public interest respecting the natural resources. The Maryland Constitution is entirely silent.

¹⁵ *Id.*, FN 2.

inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment. Subsection (B) ensures that right will be protected.

- Subsection (C) recognizes that Maryland’s natural resources are a public trust, and the State is responsible as trustee to conserve, protect, and enhance those natural resources for the benefit of not just present but also future generations.

If passed in November, Article 48 will afford all Marylanders similar environmental protections to those now enjoyed by the residents of many other states and over 100 nations. They include the constitutional protections adopted in the early 1970s by six states including Pennsylvania and Montana: Pennsylvania Constitution Article 1, Section 27, which has helped protect local drinking water supplies from pollution due to fracking,¹⁶ and Montana Constitution Article II, Section 3 and Article IX, Section 1, which protected the public from arsenic pollution.¹⁷

Other states that expressly protect environmental rights in their constitutions include Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, all adopted in the 1970s, and beginning in 2022, New York.¹⁸

The Nation’s nearly 50 years of experience with constitutional environmental rights has demonstrated that these protections do not lead to a flood of litigation or produce counterproductive or inappropriate impacts. They do, however, work in concert with, strengthen, and fill gaps in existing statutory and regulatory environmental laws, and improve the ability of government to carry out its important public functions.

Below are just a few examples of how I would expect those same helpful outcomes to be seen in Maryland.

¹⁶ Robinson Township v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 623 Pa. 564 (2013) [interpreting Article I, section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution and concluding at 79 that “economic development cannot take place at the expense of an unreasonable degradation of the environment” and the Commonwealth’s police power must be exercised to promote *sustainable* property use and economic development]. Reaffirmed Pennsylvania Environmental Defense Foundation v. Commonwealth, No. 10 MAP 2015 (Pa. June 20, 2017).

¹⁷ Montana Environmental Information Center v. Department of Environmental Quality. 296 Mont. 207 (Mont. 1999), 1999 MT 248, 988 P.2d 1236, <https://casetext.com/case/meic-v-dep-of-env-quality>.

¹⁸ For additional information about state and national constitutions addressing environmental issues see authorities cited in footnotes above, including Appendices III and V of Franklin L. Kury’s book *The Constitutional Question to Save the Planet* (Environmental Law Institute, 2021). See also, <https://forthe generations.org>; Art English and John J. Carroll *State Constitutions and Environmental Bills of Rights* (2015), viewed on January 5, 2021 at <http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/kc/system/files/English%20Carroll%202015.pdf>; Matthew Thor Kirsch *Upholding the Public Trust in State Constitutions*, Duke L. Journal Vol. 46, No. 5, pp. 1169-1210 (Mar., 1997), viewed on January 5, 2021 at <https://scholarship.law.duke.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1003&context=dlj>.

1. Article 48 Will Fill Gaps in Federal Law and Strengthen Maryland in the State-Federal Relationship

Although the Federal Government has constitutional authority to regulate on behalf of environmental quality and the U.S. Constitution affords some protections to address “conscience-shocking” conduct such as the Flint, Michigan, water crisis,¹⁹ Federal power is also limited. As a result, although modern Federal environmental laws set a floor of protection, our federal system of government defers to the traditional responsibility of each state to protect its natural resources and the public health and welfare of its residents.²⁰

Recent retrenchments in Federal environmental law underscore how important that state function is. They include the narrowing definitions of “waters of the United States”, the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord, and challenges to the Obama Era Clean Power Plan. These examples underscore that the Federal Government does not fully occupy the space, and that state governments have a critical responsibility to better define their responsibilities and fill that void.

It is entirely proper, helpful, and necessary for Maryland to elevate clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment to the level of a *state-protected* fundamental constitutional right, and to delineate the sovereign responsibility of the state in protecting that right through its natural resource trustee responsibilities.²¹ Article 48 does that.

2. Article 48 Will Give Overarching Substantive Authority to Help Achieve the Failed Objectives of the Maryland Environmental Policy Act

In 1973, the Maryland General Assembly passed the MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA). One of its most important provisions recognizes that every Marylander has a “fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful environment”.²² Unfortunately Maryland has not yet promulgated implementing regulations in COMAR applicable to all State agencies to preserve

¹⁹ *Guertin v. Michigan*, 912 F.3d 907 (6th Cir. 2019), *cert. denied*, 140 S. Ct. 933 (2020), *reaffirmed*, 20a0244 p.06 (6th Cir., Aug. 5, 2020) [“conscience-shocking” conduct sustains a substantive due process claim].

²⁰ For a comprehensive look at Federal constitutional questions see, *Principles of Constitutional Environmental Law*, by James May, American Bar Association (February 26, 2013); Robert V. Percival, *Greening the Constitution - Harmonizing Environmental and Constitutional Values*, 32 *Envtl. L.* 809 (2002).

²¹ See U.S. Const. amend. IX and X.

²² MD. CODE ANN., NAT. RES. §§1-301 to 1-305, at §1-302(d) (Westlaw 2021).

this important right. MEPA applicability has, moreover, been narrowly tailored and construed. The result is that MEPA is effectively dormant.^{23, 24}

That void has, among other things, resulted in Maryland neglecting the environmental impacts of many government actions and contributed to the concentration of polluting activities, particularly in historically disadvantaged communities. For example:

- a. According to research conducted by students at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, 200 pollution emitting facilities are concentrated in a 2.5 mile radius in South Baltimore. This concentration of pollution has led to serious health disparities in South Baltimore, including asthma hospitalization rates that are four times the Maryland average.²⁵
- b. On the Eastern Shore, concentrated animal feeding operations are contaminating drinking water, but continue operating under expired permits,²⁶ runoff from growing development is causing water, air and land pollution and, when combined with sea level rise that is already taking place, it is threatening the livelihoods and very existence of our beloved Chesapeake Bay communities.
- c. In St. Mary's County and Montgomery County per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are contaminating seafood and drinking water.
- d. There, and elsewhere, sewage overflows, single-use plastic pollution, ever more frequent historic flooding, power plant and incinerator emissions, road expansions and their resulting

²³ Russell B. Stevenson Jr., *The Maryland Environmental Policy Act: Resurrecting a Tool for Environmental Protection*, 45 ELR 10074 (1-2015). Three Maryland agencies, Dept of Planning, Transportation and Labor, promulgated regulations shortly after MEPA was enacted. Those regulations, however, have not been updated in 40 years, and no regulations have been promulgated by the Department of Natural Resources, the Maryland Department of the Environment or any other Maryland agency with responsibilities impacting the environment.

²⁴ *Cf.*, 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 [regulations applicable to *all* Federal agencies implementing the NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT OF 1969, as amended (Pub. L. 91-190, 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.)]

²⁵ A Short Report on the Cumulative Health Impacts of Air Pollution in South Baltimore, by Toby Harris, Christian Jenkins, Zain Kazi, Breanne Kincaid & Alina McIntyre, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Dep. of Environmental Health & Engineering, Principles of Environmental Health II (Fall 2019). See also <https://www.jhsph.edu/news/news-releases/2015/researchers-find-link-between-air-pollution-and-heart-disease.html> and <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25872223>.

²⁶ Report: Eastern Shore Has Unhealthy Levels of Nitrate in Drinking Water Due to CAFOs, By Elizabeth Shwe, Maryland Matters (October 21, 2020) <https://www.marylandmatters.org/2020/10/21/report-eastern-shore-has-unhealthy-levels-of-nitrate-in-drinking-water-due-to-cafos>.

transportation emissions, the continued loss of forest cover and habitats, and other insults are choking our ecosystems.²⁷

We all want a robust economy that benefits all Marylanders. But the sad truth is that, as our population continues to grow and our economic activity continues to expand,²⁸ we too often prioritize short-term economic interests over long-term sustainability, health, and well-being. So, we continue to live the legacy of *laissez faire*, one that perpetuates unsustainable patterns, burdens communities, and ignores the important truth that our economy, health, and ability to thrive are totally beholden to the environment.

In the words of the late Sen. Gaylord Nelson, the father of Earth Day:

The wealth of the nation is its air, water, soil, forests, minerals, rivers, lakes, oceans, scenic beauty, wildlife habitats and biodiversity . . . that's all there is. That's the whole economy. That's where all the economic activity and jobs come from. These biological systems are the sustaining wealth of the world.

The environment involves the whole broad spectrum of man's relationship to all other living creatures, including other human beings. . . . It involves the environment of the ghetto which . . . [has] the worst pollution, the worst noise, the worst housing, the worst situation in this country . . .

Sadly, those words, spoken 50 years ago, continue to apply to Maryland today. Clearly, we are falling behind and need stronger legal authority to attain a truly protected, sustainable environment.

As compared to MEPA and other statutes and regulations, the overarching constitutional authority of Article 48 will do that. It will elevate a truth already recognized by this body from a mere aspirational goal to an overarching organizing priority of our State.

²⁷ See, e.g., <http://mdehr.org/stories/>, <https://www.cbf.org/about-cbf/locations/maryland/issues/index.html>, <https://www.sierraclub.org/maryland>, <https://www.mdrcv.org/issues>.

²⁸ Since the beginning of the modern environmental movement in the early 1970s Maryland has grown from 4 to more than 6 million people (approx. 33% increase). Meanwhile Maryland vehicle miles traveled have more than doubled, land use under development has increased by approximately 160% and trade has grown exponentially. See, e.g.:

- <https://www.macrotrends.net/states/maryland/population>,
- https://www.roads.maryland.gov/OPPEN/Vehicle_Miles_Traveled.pdf,
- <https://planning.maryland.gov/Pages/OurWork/LandUse.aspx>, and
- <https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/01glance/economy/html/economy.html>.

3. Article 48 Will Establish the State's Trustee Authority and Clarify its Fiduciary Responsibilities.

Maryland is required to designate natural resource trustees for purposes of the Federal Clean Water Act, Oil Pollution Act and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act.²⁹ As compared to other states, however, there is no provision of Maryland's Constitution recognizing the State as trustee of Maryland's natural resources or defining that authority. The legal authority of the State to protect Maryland's natural resources now and for future generations, therefore, lacks an organic basis.

Our State Constitution is also silent on the fundamental notion that the State is responsible to carry out its natural resource trustee duties as a fiduciary for the benefit of *all* Marylanders. Compare these gaping omissions with the constitutions of Pennsylvania and Montana, among others. Article 48 fills this legal gap, establishing a clear fiduciary standard for its implementation.

As noted by the Office of the Attorney General in its recent letter supporting enactment of the HB 596, the cross-file to SB 783:

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).

4. Article 48 Will Give Clear Direction to the State and Protect Individual Rights.

This body has an awesome responsibility and does tremendous work to protect Maryland's environment. That includes your recent bans on fracking and expanded polystyrene and your many years of effort to protect the Chesapeake Bay.

But statutes do not, and cannot, foresee and timely remedy, all environmental harms. Legislating takes enormous effort, requires difficult compromises, and can often bring their own unintended environmental consequences. Nor are environmental protections when passed always implemented as intended.

²⁹ See, 42 U.S. Code § 9607(f)(2)(B); 33 U.S. Code § 2706(b)(3)

You, therefore, are not always able to address environmental problems fully, especially systemic ones, until well after the damage is done and they are faced with an outcome that shocks the conscience such as the Flint Water Crisis.

In many respects, Maryland is in better shape than some other parts of our Nation. But as a maritime state Maryland is uniquely vulnerable to climate change³⁰ and struggles with other environmental problems.³¹ The impacts are felt daily in lives and property lost.

Maryland is no exception to the weaknesses of the legislative and regulatory process. We know this and we know why. The problems we have are complex, embedded in how we have historically organized ourselves, and they are not easily solved. Our environmental laws, moreover, are media-specific, require regulatory implementation, and at the state-level are more-often-than-not reactions to the changing mandates of the Federal Government. The result is a siloed, piecemeal assortment of often contradictory requirements, rather than an integrated system responsive to Maryland-specific priorities.

By comparison, as the highest law of the State, Article 48 will provide the most enduring form of legal protection:

- It will provide clear direction to guide this body and the other branches of our State Government in crafting legislation and will, thus, strengthen Maryland's ability to not only address environmental crises when they arise, but to prevent them from unfolding in the first instance.
- In addition, as a clear statement of values and responsibilities, it provides strong guardrails, ensuring immediately available remedies when none are provided for in our laws. Over time it will put Maryland on a solid course toward improving and preserving a more healthful environment for *everyone* including our most disadvantaged communities and future generations.

Conclusion

The past two years of struggle, including the global pandemic, have underscored the tremendous dangers we all face, and the many inequities that exist, including in our state. One cannot stay healthy, grow, and prosper, in a diminishing environment, and Maryland sadly is not immune.

³⁰ See, <https://climatechange.maryland.gov/science>.

³¹ See, footnotes 25 thru 28.

These circumstances demand that we take better care of our own. That starts with your leadership. It starts with your willingness to build a solid legal foundation for protecting Maryland's environment, one that places our environment on a stronger footing on par with other important interests, one that can effectively address the challenges we now face and those we will face in the years to come.

Constitutional environmental rights have proven useful to achieve those objectives in other jurisdictions, and they have not inhibited economic progress, intruded on the legislative prerogative, or led to a flood of litigation. I, therefore, urge these Committees to vote favorably for SB 783, so that the voters of Maryland will have the opportunity to add this amendment to the Maryland Constitution.

Thank you for the attention the Committees are giving this important bill, and please let me know if you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

[s]

Rachel M. Hopp

Cc: Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin, Executive Director
Maryland Campaign for Human Environmental Rights

sb783 susan olsen fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Cardin

Position: FAV

Committee: Judiciary Proceedings Committee and Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

Testimony on: SB783

Organization: Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth (DCPG)

Submitting: Susan Olsen, Board Member

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: March 9, 2022

Dear Senator Smith and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony in support of SB783 -- Constitutional Amendment -- Environmental Rights. Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth is an environmental organization located in Dorchester County. We urge you in the strongest possible terms possible to vote favorably on SB783.

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 gives us the opportunity to restore the original intention of MEPA and hold state agencies responsible for enforcing it. (It does NOT give private citizens the right to sue neighbors or businesses.)

The need for the amendment is plain from 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 knew from water sampling and testing that the Transquaking River was becoming polluted by the wastewater and sludge being dumped in the river and on the surrounding land by Valley Proteins, Inc.

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," 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 property values had plummeted.

A month after the hearing, Matt Pluta of ShoreRivers sent MDE some drone photos of Valley Proteins illegally discharging polluted wastewater into the Transquaking River in Linkwood. MDE closed the plant -- for only two days! The company was up and running again on 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 SB783. Your favorable vote would allow Maryland voters the opportunity to decide if they want to add this Constitutional Amendment to our state's Bill of Rights.

SB783 Washington College SGA fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Cardin

Position: FAV

Judicial Proceedings and Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committees
SB783
The Washington College Student Government Association
Hearing Date: 3.9.22
Favorable

Chairmen Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, Chairman Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kaga, Honorable
Committee Members

The Washington College Student Government Association strongly expresses our support for HB596/SB783 - *Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights*. In November of 2021, our Student Government Association created “A Resolution of Support for the Maryland Campaign for Human Environmental Rights” which was unanimously passed by the Senate Body to voice our college’s support for this amendment and the importance of environmental human rights.

Two of the main pillars of our college are sustainability and justice. As a student body motivated by these values, we are concerned by the current status of our world and climate. We are located on the Chester River and have witnessed the environmental injustice inflicted on our communities: flooding, severe storms, and water quality issues have disproportionately impacted marginalized communities in Chestertown. As students, we have worked to bring awareness to these issues, researched the impact on our communities, and innovated ways to decrease our impact on the environment. However, the lack of legal framework and support from the State have created barriers for addressing environmental injustice in our community.

We believe this bill is essential to ensuring environmental equity in our community and throughout the State by constitutionally recognizing Marylanders’ right to a healthful and sustainable environment. This amendment would create a legal framework that would uphold the environmental values of this state that current laws do not.

We know Maryland is committed to a healthful environment. Environmental consciousness was shown in the passage of “The Maryland Environmental Policy Act of 1973,” which states that “each person has a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful environment,” and many other efforts to support our environment, but these have fallen short because of the lack of a legal backing to support them. As members of the Maryland Senate, you have the responsibility to address the current issues of this state and it better for the following generations; this bill is your opportunity to fulfill that responsibility.

Our generation is committed to addressing the issues caused by climate change, environmental degradation, and environmental injustices. As college students, we are the future of our local communities, state, and country. As future leaders, we show our commitment to creating and maintaining a healthful environment. As the current leaders of our state, we hope you recognize the importance of supporting this legislation so we can work together to protect the environment, the next generation, and all Marylanders that have been and will be impacted by environmental degradation.

Alongside this testimony, we submit “A Resolution of Support for the Maryland Campaign for Human Environmental Rights.” which was passed unanimously by our Senate Body. (attached)

Submitted on behalf of the Washington College Student Government Association by,
Maegan White | Secretary of Service and Community Relations
Kevin Denice | Chair of the Environmental Committee

**A Resolution of Support for the Maryland Campaign for Human
Environmental Rights Submitted to the Washington College Senate
Norman James Theater, November 16th, 2021**

Background: The Maryland Environmental Policy Act of 1973 states that “each person has a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful environment,” but this law did not create legal standing for the law to be enforceable and effective. However, the addition of a constitutional amendment that recognizes these rights would create the legal precedent and backing to protect the environmental rights of all Marylanders. The Maryland Campaign for Human Environmental Rights, a non-partisan advocacy group, is proposing that the following be added as an amendment to the Maryland Constitution:

1. That each person, as a matter of human dignity, has a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful environment, and;
2. That State of Maryland, as a trustee, shall conserve, manage and enhance Maryland’s natural and cultural resources including the air, land, water, and ecosystems for the benefit of both present and future generations. The creation of the constitutional amendment would guide future legislation and regulations, improve environmental and public health, and give an avenue for residents of Maryland to address and correct environmental injustice and degradation issues. Maryland would be following the lead of the United Nations Human Rights Council, seven other states that have such provisions in their constitutions, and fourteen other states that are considering similar legislation.

WHEREAS, Washington College recognizes Environmental Action as one of its five Washington College Standards and therefore supporting and advocating for the legislation demonstrates Washington College students’ commitment to our college’s Standards; and

WHEREAS, the Washington College student body is environmentally motivated to mitigate environmental degradation, address environmental injustice, and make our college and community more environmentally conscious and friendly, as demonstrated through the actions of organizations like the Student Environmental Alliance, SGA Environmental Committee, Environmental Science and Studies Department, and other environmental clubs; and

WHEREAS, the Chestertown community shares similar values around environmental stewardship and Chestertown has a unique environment that is incredibly valuable to the culture, history, and beauty of the town that most residents deem worthy of protection; and

WHEREAS, lack of environmental action of past generations has disproportionately impacted younger generations and underrepresented groups, creating major environmental injustice issues; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that the state provides and recognizes the rights of all residents and, since the current laws fall short of adequately protecting the “healthful environment” promised in the Maryland Environmental Policy Act of 1973, it is essential that the state passes stronger legislation that fully recognizes and enforces the rights of Marylanders, and

WHEREAS, the creation and passage of this resolution could serve as a collaborative template for other colleges and institutions to pass similar efforts and engage young people in this process.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Washington College Student Government Association expresses their full support for the environmental constitutional amendment brought by the Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human Rights; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Senate commits to showing our continual support for this necessary legislation by partnering with other colleges and universities; tabling at Hodson to bring awareness to the legislation; hosting and attending seminars and public forums to generate awareness and knowledge of the issue; organizing and attending lobbying days in Annapolis during the spring semester; and engaging in other activities and events that generate support and awareness around the issues; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, this resolution of support will be sent to all of Maryland’s Eastern Shore elected officials, and that Maegan White, the Secretary of Service and Community Relations and Alexa Venturato, the Secretary of the Environment, and the respective Senate committees will lead these initiatives and encourage their predecessors to do the same during officer transition.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maegan White | Secretary of Service and Community Relations

Alexa Venturato | Secretary of the Environment

Respectfully Cosigned,

Service and Community Relations Committee

Environmental Committee

Constitutional Review Committee

Kat DeSantis | SGA President

Nali Gowon | Secretary of Diversity and Inclusion

Liz Hay | SGA Director of Communications and Marketing

Natalie Wisnoski | Parliamentarian

Emily Hurley | President of Composting Team Club

Marianne Herbst | President of Wildlife Conservation Club

Alaina Perdon | President of WC Chapter Food Recovery Network

Emma Cease | Student Director of Sustainability and the Food Initiative

Unanimously Approved,

Washington College Student Government Association Senators

SB0783-FAV-DTMG-3-9-22.pdf

Uploaded by: Olivia Bartlett

Position: FAV



Olivia Bartlett, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Testimony on: SB0783 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: March 9, 2022

Bill Contact: Senator William Smith, Jr.

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 SB0783 because every person has a fundamental right to a healthful and sustainable environment with clean air, water, and land. SB0783, 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. SB0783 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. SB0783 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 SB0783 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 SB0783 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 SB0783 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report on this bill so Maryland voters can decide if they want to add environmental human rights to our Constitution.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Testimony (SB783) MD Environmental Human Rights Am

Uploaded by: Rhonda Kranz

Position: FAV

Committee: Judicial Proceedings - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Testimony on: SB783 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights
Submitting: Rhonda Kranz (5 Montgomery Ave, Takoma Park, MD)
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: March 9, 2022

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing my testimony in support of SB783 – 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.

SB783, 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 SB783 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 SB783 so Marylanders can decide if they want to add environmental human rights to their Constitution.

SB 783_Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home_FAV.

Uploaded by: Robert Simon

Position: FAV



Hearing before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Maryland General Assembly
March 9, 2022

**Statement of Support (FAVORABLE)
of Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home on
SB 783, 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 Senate Bill 783, 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*.^{*} 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" (p. 71). Likewise, the Amendment addresses the important issue of accountability (p. 61) by ensuring that matters of environmental justice can be legally addressed by all of Maryland's diverse citizenry.

Over 500 Catholics, from 30 Catholic parishes across Maryland and 33 of Maryland's 47 Senatorial Districts, have signed MCCH's petition in support of efforts to pass this Constitutional Amendment. Senate Bill 783 has also drawn support from a wide coalition of faith communities in Maryland, with whom we are proud to stand.

Thank you for your consideration of our views and our respectful request for a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 783.

^{*} The English text of the encyclical, to which the paragraph numbers in the following parentheses refer, can be found at: https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_eniclica-laudato-si.html.

SB 783_CBF SUPPORT.pdf

Uploaded by: Robin Jessica Clark

Position: FAV



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education

Senate Bill 783

Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights

Date: March 9, 2022

Position: Support

To: Judicial Proceedings and Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committees
From: Robin Clark, Maryland Staff Attorney

Chesapeake Bay Foundation **SUPPORTS** SB 783 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

SB 783 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." 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 SB 783 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 SB 783. For more information contact Robin Clark at rclark@cbf.org and 443.995.8753.

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.

GHHI Written Testimony - SB783.pdf

Uploaded by: Ruth Ann Norton

Position: FAV



2714 Hudson Street
Baltimore, MD 21224-4716
P: 410-534-6447
F: 410-534-6475
www.ghhi.org

March 8, 2022

Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Senator Paul G. Pinsky., Chair
Senate Education, Health and Environment Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: **FAVORABLE** – SB783 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

Dear Chairmans Smith and Pinsky 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 SB783 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 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, lack of ventilation, 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 and children in Maryland have diagnosed 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 has demonstrated 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 \$93.3 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 learning disabilities, loss of IQ, speech development problems, attention deficit disorder, poor school performance and violent, aggressive behavior that heavily burdens low income communities. Lead poisoning is irreversible and has a significant impact on societal costs. 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 effects of climate change on low income communities. A constitutional amendment will result in more aggressive prevention policies and enforcement of existing laws to mitigate environmental hazards and climate change. These changes are needed to address unhealthy environments and unsafe 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 and medical cost 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 SB783.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ruth Ann Norton
President and CEO

SB0783-Fav Testimony POLICY FOUNDATION OF MARYLAND

Uploaded by: Sarahia Benn

Position: FAV



Policy Foundation of Maryland

Committee: Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs & Judicial Proceedings

Testimony on: SB0783-- [Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights](#)

SPONSOR: Senators Smith, Jackson, Guzzone, Beidle, Carter, Elfreth, Feldman, Kelley, Watson, Waldstreicher, Young, Washington, Lee, Lam, Kramer, and Hettleman

Organization: Policy Foundation of Maryland, Rebuild Maryland Coalition, MD Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Sarahia Benn (Executive Dir.)

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: March 9, 2022 1PM

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing testimony today in support of SB0783. Policy Foundation of Maryland is a grassroots organization focused on State and County level legislation and policies that impacts Black, Brown, marginalized, low income communities and veterans affairs. Environmental legislation is of massive importance to these communities particularly due to how impacted these communities have been historically and currently. The Rebuild Coalition consists of over 41 organizations and businesses are a diverse group of stakeholders working together to pass strong climate legislation. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Simply put Marylanders have a constitutional right to a healthy environment. Preserving the right to clean air, clean water, healthy soil, and a stable environment which will impact Marylanders health in a good way in our Constitution is necessary.

Much like our Federal Constitution has a series of rights that we hold true this would be a part of our Maryland preamble that would hold true along with other rights like the right

to self incrimination or freedom of speech. Communities struggling with environmental injustices for centuries who have been distressed would finally have an Amendment that has measures in it that would hold state and local governments accountable for ensuring a healthy environment be maintained in their communities. This Amendment gives voice to those who have been marginalized. This is important and vital.

Locally, a few years ago, Harford County was proposing to build a tire pyrolysis recycling factory to be located within 5 miles of 6 schools in Black, Brown, and marginalized communities and schools. It was defeated through grassroots advocacy but imagine if there had been an Environmental Rights amendment in place, the fight against such a harmful business development in a vulnerable community in Harford may not have been so overwhelming and costly to local activists who are normally under-resourced and undermanned. And this was just one struggle. Multiple environmental injustice attacks have happened in the same area since similar to what happened to [Chester, PA.](#)

What will an Environmental Human Rights Amendment do?

- The proposed Environmental Human Rights Amendment is a legal and accountability tool that can be used by Marylanders, NGO's, local governments, and state agencies to ensure that our rights to a healthful environment are protected and enforced.
- 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
- Promote the creation of stronger environmental regulations
- Promote environmental justice and remedy past injustices
- Establish environmental health and environmental equity as fundamental values of our society

The unfortunate reality is that there has been strong environmental legislation passed in Maryland but it takes years to pass and does not guarantee to protect the health of ALL Marylanders. Historically, environmentally speaking, Maryland has had issues with adequately implementing and enforcing their environmental laws to protect "ALL Marylanders." From generation to generation, our state has created systems that reinforce inequity particularly on the most vulnerable Marylanders. When one part of our Community is hurting then we must heal it and do no more harm. This Amendment will

provide an inalienable right that “All Marylanders” will be able to enjoy.

Finally, Seven US states have language in their constitutions which speak to the right to a healthy environment; three of these states have language in their Declaration of Rights so Maryland would not be setting new precedence. Experience has shown that a number of environmental lawsuits don't explode in states with environmental rights in their Constitutions. In fact, evidence shows that only those who need to utilize this as a last resort because they have been harmed have. When existing laws are insufficient or flawed or state environmental agencies fail, Marylanders deserve to have similar rights and protections that other states provide in their constitutions to have measures of accountability. We are asking that you pass this bill so the People of Maryland have the opportunity to approve the Constitutional Amendment.

For these reasons and more, I urge a **FAVORABLE REPORT** on **SB0783**.

Respectfully submitted,



Sarahia Benn
(Policy Foundation of Maryland, Rebuild Maryland Coalition, MD Legislative Coalition)

(Dedicated to Women's History month)

““When my brothers try to draw a circle to exclude me, I shall draw a larger circle to include them. Where they speak out for the privileges of a puny group, I shall shout for the rights of all mankind.” –[Pauli Murray](#)

SSC EHRA (SB783) Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: SGA Director of Sustainability University of Maryland, College Park

Position: FAV



University of Maryland Student Government Association Sustainability Committee (SSC)

Honorable Chair Smith and esteemed Senators of the Judicial Proceedings 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 **SB783**.

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, Assateague, 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, Prince George's County – Maryland's three majority-Black counties – and the Eastern Shore.³

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").

³ <https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper>



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.

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 degradation and human health. However, as we look towards an uncertain future, we find value

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>



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. 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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Policy
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Uploaded by: Sonya Ziaja

Position: FAV

Professor Sonya Ziaja¹
University of Baltimore School of Law
House Bill 596/ Senate Bill 783 – Favorable
March 9, 2022

Dear Chairman Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, Honorable Members of the Judiciary
Proceedings Committee,

On February 28, 2022, the United States Supreme Court heard oral arguments in *West Virginia v. EPA*. The outcome of that case will determine the course of federal climate policy in the United States. Specifically, it will determine the scope of US EPA’s authority to limit greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity sector, and to encourage replacing existing fossil fuel electricity generation with renewable sources, under the Clean Air Act.² Given the Court’s growing antagonism to the administrative state, the Court’s reasoning in *National Federation of Independent Business v. Department of Labor*,³ and that the Court took the case, even though it contains standing and mootness defects,⁴ most environmental law scholars anticipate that the majority will decide the case on the merits, and that it will severely curtail the EPA’s authority to regulate greenhouse gasses.

Why does this federal case matter to Maryland and the choice before the Judicial Proceedings Committee?

1. Constitutional rights to a healthy environment can help states to fill in the gap left by the federal government.

Over the past decade, in the absence of meaningful climate action at the federal level, states and municipalities have worked to fill in the gap. *West Virginia* likely will widen that gap by disabling the US EPA’s ability to systematically regulate greenhouse gas emissions. Greenhouse

¹ Sonya Ziaja, JD, MSc, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Environmental Law at the University of Baltimore School of Law. She has expertise in climate adaptation governance and the water-energy nexus. She was a lead author for California’s Fourth Climate Assessment and participated in the first state climate adaptation regulation of investor-owned energy utilities.

² The statutory language in question is Section 111 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. Section 7411), which grants the EPA authority to regulate emissions from power plants. The Obama Administration relied on this section for the Clean Power Plan, which would have regulated emissions on a system-wide basis, so that decreasing emissions in one plant would not cause an increase at another plant (e.g., “generation shifting”). When the Trump Administration took over, the EPA adopted a narrower read of Section 111, only allowing individual plant-by-plant regulation.

³ Nathan Richardson, *Antideference: COVID, Climate, and the Rise of the Major Questions Canon*, SOCARXIV PAPERS vol. 5.2 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/2cqt8>, (arguing that the elevation of the “major questions doctrine” in *National Federation of Independent Business v. Department of Labor* to an analytical tool—requiring that statutes must speak *directly* to the matter being regulated for agency action to be valid—is a “new veto” power among the branches that “threatens to cripple the administrative state”). Brief of Amicus Curiae Richard L. Revesz in Support of Federal, Non-Governmental Organization and Trade Association, Power Company, and State and Municipal Respondents, Nos. 20-1530, 20-1778 and 20-1780, *West Virginia v. EPA*, https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/20/20-1530/211297/20220125143949146_Amicus%20Brief.pdf.

⁴ The EPA is not enforcing the Clean Power Plan, and is not currently enforcing Section 111 of the Clean Air Act against the petitioners, raising the question of whether this is a judiciable case or controversy. *See* Jonathon Adler, *Does the Supreme Court Have Jurisdiction to Hear West Virginia v. EPA?*, **THE VOLOKH CONSPIRACY**, (Feb. 3, 2022), <https://reason.com/volokh/2022/02/03/does-the-supreme-court-have-jurisdiction-to-hear-west-virginia-v-epa/> (Giving an overview of the justiciability questions in *West Virginia*).

gas emissions from electricity generation accounts for approximately one quarter of total greenhouse gas emissions in the United States.⁵ Because these emissions come from stationary sources, and renewable energy generation are known zero-emissions alternatives, regulating emissions from electric generation is among the easiest ways to quickly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. Absent federal action, states empowered by constitutional principles and substantive rights, like those in SB 783, can take positive steps through state law to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

2. Cooperative federalism gives states a role in determining federal regulation in their territory; constitutional rights to a healthy environment can encourage states to be proactive in their negotiations and planning alongside the federal government.

The major federal environmental laws function by cooperative federalism—states work together with federal agencies to develop specific plans to limit pollution, within the confines of federal statutory frameworks. The Clean Air Act works this way. So too does the Clean Water Act. If Maryland were to adopt an environmental rights amendment, it could provide an avenue for encouraging the state in its negotiations and discussions with federal agencies to act in the interest of future Marylanders. For example, the Clean Air Act sets a “floor” for certain kinds of air pollution. But, in developing plans to meet that floor, states have authority to further reduce emissions.⁶ By clearly stating the role of the state in protecting the human environmental rights of Marylanders, SB 783 arms the state in its approach to cooperative federalism.

3. A constitutional right to a healthy environment facilitates inter-systems and inter-sectoral planning needed to prevent and adapt to climate impacts.

The nature of climate change requires broad cross-sector planning.⁷ Energy relies on water systems and vice-versa.⁸ Existing environmental statutes tend to address single sectors, or are geographically limited. A broad right to a healthy environment, like that of SB 783, can affirmatively encourage state agencies to increase cross-sector communication, monitoring, and planning.

Finally, it is worth noting that what constitutional rights “mean” is decided through generations of the state and citizens engaging with that right. Pennsylvania’s Environmental Rights Amendment, passed in 1971, spent most of its life subverted by a judicial balancing test, and did not begin to regain its textualist plain meaning until 2013. Looking back deeper in history, it took over eighty years for the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution to take on its current meaning. In both instances, despite the potential, and actual, dormancy of the amendments, the legal rights were there to act on as their meanings evolved.

In light of the history of principled constitutional amendments, and the pressing need for states to build a legal architecture to deal with climate change, I urge you to support SB 783.

⁵ US EPA, <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions> (last visited March 7, 2022).

⁶ See 42 U.S.C. §7416. See William W. Buzzbee, *Clean Air Act Dynamism and Disappointments: Lessons for Climate Legislation to Prompt Innovation and Discourage Inertia*, 32 WASH. U. J.L. & POL’Y 33 (2010) (For further reading on “floor preemption” of the CAA).

⁷ Linda Shi, Susanne Moser, *Transformative climate adaptation in the United States: Trends and prospects*, 372 SCIENCE 6549 (2021). Available at <https://www.science.org/doi/abs/10.1126/science.abc8054>.

⁸ Sonya Ziaja, *Rules and Values in Virtual Optimization of California Hydropower*, 57 NATURAL RESOURCES J. 329 (2017).

NAACP MSC - SB 783 Written Testimony for Maryland

Uploaded by: Staci Hartwell

Position: FAV

March 8, 2022

Legislation | SB 783 Maryland Environmental Human Rights Amendment

Committee | Judicial Proceedings

Position | Favorable

Testimony

Dear Chairman Smith and Committee Members,

To begin, here are some important statistics from a recent poll conducted on the Maryland Environmental Human Rights Amendment. These independent, professional poll results¹ are based on feedback from a representative sample of Maryland voters. The poll yielded the following:

- More than 75% of Maryland voters support this Amendment. In full disclosure 10% oppose it and 15% weren't sure.
- If the election were held today, the majority of Maryland voters would vote for protecting this right in the state constitution.
- Marylanders went on to share, that if this issue were on the ballot, more than half, approximately 52%, of our voters said it would make them more likely to come out and vote.

These results demonstrate, this amendment is a unifier – it speaks to the majority of our voters. The clear takeaway here is... this Amendment is not red; it is not blue; it is clearly purple.

This Amendment formally recognizes environmental rights as civil rights, with defined protections which enables communities, impacted by environmental justice, to seek support and intervention. If ever there was a cry for environmental support, from our constituents, it would be for this Amendment, as it aligns and dovetails with the mission of the climate and environmental movement and the best interests of our residents.

Unfortunately, in this country, race is still the number one indicator of where toxic and polluting facilities are located. This is not an “alternate fact”. Pollution and other environmental hazards are concentrated in BIPOC, communities of color, regardless of economic status. Maryland, unfortunately, is no exception. The State is supposed to protect, preserve, and enhance our natural resources and therefore, they are to be held responsible to ensure our well-being, as stewards of these natural resources -- not for the interests of corporations, shareholders, but to *us*, “we, the people”.

Over 100 Constitutions around the globe, seven in the United States, have adopted a human right to a healthy environment. It is time Maryland takes the lead on this Amendment. It's time we step up, be accountable, and assume the leadership position once again.

We are not only talking about protecting the environment, but we are also referring to tangential impacts and consequences of a contaminated environment, e.g., property values. The most valuable asset the average family has is their home. The value of homes impacts legacy wealth – how a family builds wealth and how they can leverage that wealth as the foundation for long-term financial well-being and a healthy financial legacy for generations to follow.

WUSA Channel 9 recently aired an exposé on communities in Brandywine seeking to understand why real estate values for their property is less than that of similar communities in Montgomery, Howard, and other predominantly white communities. But ask yourself, could one of the contributing factors be because Brandywine, Prince George's County, along with Baltimore City/Curtis Bay; Lothian, Anne Arundel County; Hebron, Wicomico County; and the like, bear the brunt of the polluting services that make this state function? Maryland, as have many other states, has used predominantly BIPOC communities as dumping grounds for all the polluting services needed to help run this state and have

given them absolutely no consideration for the sacrifices they've made to keep this state functioning. To add insult to injury, they continue to pile on more devastating infrastructure in this over-burdened communities.

Brandywine has more fossil fuel capacity than 99.9% of the country and it is 67% Black. And, as if, having the state's ONLY sewage sludge incinerator, multiple landfills, sitting at the convergence of three major trucking routes, two of which, dubbed "Diesel death zones", as well as not one, not two, not three but FOUR coal/gas powered plants within a 13-mile radius, wastewater dumping into the waterways, and sunny day flooding, as if all of this isn't enough, they are now supporting MagLev...the gas pipeline on the Eastern Shore... and the National Harbor/Livingston Road Battery Energy Storage Station. Are they really going to allow permitting for this to be constructed in communities where people live? Those battery facilities are notoriously unstable. The residents in the Rosecroft area are being treated like guinea pigs! All this to save .02 cents on their monthly electric bill. These communities have the highest rates of deaths related to air quality in the COUNTRY; the highest levels of ozone in the state, 2nd in the nation, and yet these agencies persist in their devastation of these communities.

We cannot continue to undermine these communities and still expect them to thrive. This legislation serves as an "equalizer". It empowers organizations with the leverage they need to help make fair and equitable decisions concerning the environment. It is the "tide that lifts all ships". Vice President, Kamala Harris said, "we cannot achieve health justice, economic justice, racial justice, or educational justice without environmental justice." This amendment is the common thread that uplifts and helps remedy other civil rights issues. These issues are inexorably linked and its time we acknowledge and act upon it.

We are grateful to you, Senator Smith, for your vision and leadership on this legislation. We have the environmental justice community unanimously supporting this amendment. We need our legislators to stand behind and support this amendment. The time for the Environmental Human Rights Amendment is now!

We encourage a favorable report. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ SRHartwell

Staci Hartwell, Chair
Environmental and Climate Justice
NAACP Maryland State Conference
617 257 8893
SRHConsulting@gmail.com

¹ The margin of sampling error on this poll is not greater than +- 3% and that puts it at the 95% confidence level. In other words, these results are credible.

NAACP MSC SB783 Environmental Human Rights Amendme

Uploaded by: Staci Hartwell

Position: FAV



NAACP

Maryland
STATE CONFERENCE

Legislation | SB 783 Maryland Environmental Human Rights Amendment
Committee | Judicial Proceedings
Position | Favorable

March 8, 2022

*Testimony
Presented in Person*

Greetings. I am the Chair of Environmental and Climate Justice for the NAACP Maryland State Conference. I am a native Washingtonian and 2nd generation resident of Prince George's County, one of the most environmentally overburdened and polluted counties in the state.

Unfortunately, across the country, race is still the number one indicator of where toxic and polluting facilities are located. Pollution and other environmental hazards are concentrated in communities of color, regardless of economic status. Maryland, unfortunately, is no exception. We cannot continue to undermine these communities and still expect them to thrive. This legislation serves as an "equalizer. It empowers organizations with the leverage they need to help make fair and equitable decisions concerning the environment.

Accountability is a tool of a civilized society. The State is supposed to protect, preserve, and enhance our natural resources and therefore, they are to be held responsible to ensure our well-being, as stewards of these natural resources; not for the interests of corporations, shareholders, but for us --"we, the people." Corporations are not people.

The 1960s exposed and elevated the lack of environmental protections and public health dangers to communities of color and those without political influence. And one-half century later, we are worse off due to cumulative environmental impacts. And even though the Declaration of Independence declares we have certain inalienable rights, there are too many instances in this state clearly demonstrating our government's failure to ensure those rights. This amendment is an opportunity to restore those protections and clearly demonstrate our constitution is for the people, by the people, so we will not perish from this earth.

Senator Smith, we regard you as a champion for the people and are grateful for your leadership on this important legislation. We encourage a favorable report. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ SRHartwell

Staci Hartwell, Chair
Environmental and Climate Justice
NAACP Maryland State Conference
617 257 8893
SRHConsulting@gmail.com

2022 ACNM SB 783 Senate Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Suhani Chitalia

Position: FAV



Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Bill Number: SB 783

Title: Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

Hearing Date: March 9, 2022

Position: Support

The Maryland Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) strongly supports *Senate Bill 783 – 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>

ANHE Testimony SB 783 Constitutional Amendment - E

Uploaded by: Suhani Chitalia

Position: FAV



Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

Bringing Science and Passion to the Environmental Health Movement

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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

SB 783 Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights

Hearing Date: 3/9/2022, 1pm

Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings

Position: SUPPORT

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

The Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments (ANHE) strongly supports SB 783 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 SB 783.

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>

David Boyd testimony 2022 hb596.pdf

Uploaded by: Suhani Chitalia

Position: FAV



PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 9159 • FAX: +41 22 917 9006 • E-MAIL: srenvironment@ohchr.org

Dr. David R Boyd (Canada)
UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment

Speaking notes for Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee,
Maryland General Assembly

March 9 2022

I would like to emphasize that the right to a healthy environment is by no means a “new” human right. To the contrary, it is a right that is incorporated in almost all of the world’s regional human rights systems. It is a right that is found in the majority of the world’s constitutions, beginning with Portugal in 1976 and Spain in 1978.¹ It is a right that is expressly included in environmental legislation in the majority of countries. In total, more than 155 States, 80 percent of UN Member States, already recognize this right in their domestic legal systems.² It was recognized at the global level last year by the United Nations Human Rights Council. In the United States, the right to a healthy environment is found in seven state constitutions, including Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Montana, New York, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island.

Based on decades of experience, the right includes clean air, safe and sufficient water, healthy and sustainably produced food, a safe climate, healthy ecosystems and biodiversity, and non-toxic environments where people can live, work, study and play.³ The recognition of the right serves as a catalyst for a number of benefits, including: stronger environmental laws and policies; improved implementation and enforcement of those laws and policies; increased levels of

public participation in environmental decision-making; and reduced environmental injustices.⁴

Most importantly, recognition of the right to a healthy environment contributes to improved environmental outcomes, including cleaner air, enhanced access to safe drinking water, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.⁵ Of particular importance are the positive effects for vulnerable populations, including women, children, people of color and persons living in poverty.⁶

In light of the world's urgent environmental challenges, recognition of this right should be a top priority. I strongly support House Bill 596 to amend the Maryland Constitution.

¹ D.R. Boyd. 2012. *The Environmental Rights Revolution: Constitutions, Human Rights and the Environment*. University of British Columbia Press. J.R. May and E. Daly. 2015. *Global Environmental Constitutionalism*. Cambridge University Press. J.H. Knox and R. Pejan, eds. 2018. *The Human Right to a Healthy Environment*. Cambridge University Press.

² See Special Rapporteur on human rights and environment A/HRC/43/53.

³ See various reports of the Special Rapporteur on human rights and environment: A/HRC/40/55 (Clean Air), A/74/161 (Safe Climate), A/75/161 (Healthy Ecosystems and Biodiversity), A/HRC/46/28 (Safe and Sufficient Water), A/76/179 (Healthy and Sustainable Food), A/HRC/49/53 (Non-toxic Environments).

⁴ D.R. Boyd. 2012. *The Environmental Rights Revolution: Constitutions, Human Rights and the Environment*. University of British Columbia Press. J.R. May and E. Daly. 2015. *Global Environmental Constitutionalism*. Cambridge University Press. J.H. Knox and R. Pejan, eds. 2018. *The Human Right to a Healthy Environment*. Cambridge University Press.

⁵ C. Jeffords and L. Minkler. 2016. "Do constitutions matter? The effects of constitutional environmental provisions on environmental outcomes", *Kyklos*, vol. 69, No. 2, pp. 294–335. C. Jeffords. 2016. "On the temporal effects of static constitutional environmental rights provisions on access to improved sanitation facilities and water sources", *Journal of Human Rights and the Environment*, vol. 7, No. 1, pp. 74–110.

⁶ See Special Rapporteur on human rights and environment A/HRC/37/59 (Framework Principles) and A/HRC/43/53 (Good Practices).

Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Suhani Chitalia

Position: FAV

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Testimony on: SB 783

Organization: Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth (DCPG)

Submitting: Susan Olsen, Board Member

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: March 9, 2022

Dear Chairman Barve and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony in support of SB 783-- 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 SB 783. 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 SB 783 Support .pdf

Uploaded by: Suhani Chitalia

Position: FAV



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

SUPPORT

SB783

Constitutional Amendment-Environmental Rights
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Good Afternoon Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher and members of the Judicial Proceedings 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 SB 783.

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.

4 E UNIVERSITY PARKWAY, BALTIMORE, MD 21218-2437
TEL: 410-467-1399 / 800-443-1399 FAX: 410-554-6387
WWW.EPISCOPALMARYLAND.ORG

Kury (PA) SB 783 Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Suhani Chitalia

Position: FAV

Testimony of Franklin L. Kury
Maryland House of Delegates
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Annapolis, Maryland

**SB 783 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights
Favorable**

March 9, 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 to 1 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 Senate Bill 783.

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.

Larry Ryan SB 783 Support .pdf

Uploaded by: Suhani Chitalia

Position: FAV

To: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Lawrence Ryan, Berlin, MD

Testimony advocating for SB 783

The Maryland Environmental Human Rights Amendment

Hearing 3/9/2022 @ 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.

Megan Latshaw SB783 Support .pdf

Uploaded by: Suhani Chitalia

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 Senate Bill 783.

I'm Dr. Megan Latshaw 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])

SB 783 Heidi SP Support .pdf

Uploaded by: Suhani Chitalia

Position: FAV

In Support of the Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Human Rights SB783

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.

SB 783 Testimony MD CEHC 2022 MD EHR Amendment 220

Uploaded by: Suhani Chitalia

Position: FAV

Maryland Children's Environmental Health Coalition

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Comm.
Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice-Chair
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
phone: 410-841-3661

March 9, 2022 Hearing

SB 783

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 SB 783** 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 **SB 783**. 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 **SB 783** 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 that would 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 Maryland Department of Environment (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".

SB 783 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 **SB 783**.

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/sc53300/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

Senate BLMA MD Amend Enviro Rights 3.4.2022.pdf

Uploaded by: Suhani Chitalia

Position: FAV



Testimony of B Local Mid-Atlantic
March 4, 2022

To: Senate Judicial Proceeding Committee and the Education,
Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

In Support of: SB783 Maryland Constitutional Amendment -
Environmental Human 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 SB783 - 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, SB783 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, SB783 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 SB783 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](#).

UMC SB 783 Support .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

March 9, 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 **SB783, 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 SB783 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

SB0783_TEMoore_Fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Thomas Earle Moore

Position: FAV

**SB0783: Favorable Testimony of Thomas E Moore, 3rd Rock Research
The Environmental Human Rights Amendment (EHRA)**

9 March 2022 p.1

1. Today I ask you for a favorable report on the EHRA: I'm a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union, and a retired NASA Manager and Project Scientist who resides in Annapolis, MD. I'm an engineering physics consultant to efforts to reduce fuel burning, carbon emissions and the global warming, ice melt, and sea level rise that concern us all.

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. SB0783 will document and enforce this right.

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. Citizens rightly expect elected officials to protect the common good and assure that it benefits us all. Stewards must be empowered to hold exploiters accountable. SB0783 will empower you to do this.

4. We are making Annapolis and tidewater Maryland a "low country" like Holland: In the 1980s, we learned that the seemingly harmless carbon dioxide released from 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 low-lying infrastructure from rising seas.

5. Without immediate, affordable actions, we will incur overwhelming expenses: Once a seasonal nuisance, flooding now occurs about 40 days per year in Annapolis, and is expected to become a daily occurrence. A 5 to 6 foot sea wall is needed now to protect the US Naval Academy and downtown businesses. These and many other threatened Maryland sites are essential to the prosperity of the state and region.

6. Voters will pass the EHRA to ratify and enable your trusteeship of the environment: Polls (MDEHR) show 76% of Maryland voters support this amendment. They recognize EHRA as a necessary legal foundation for the bold action required to respond in an appropriate manner to these clear threats to Annapolis and the State of Maryland.

I attach a few exhibits and am happy to respond to questions at 443-254-4712, or thomem@iirdrock.net

**SB0783: Favorable Testimony of Thomas E Moore, 3rd Rock Research
The Environmental Human Rights Amendment (EHRA)**

9 March 2022 p.2

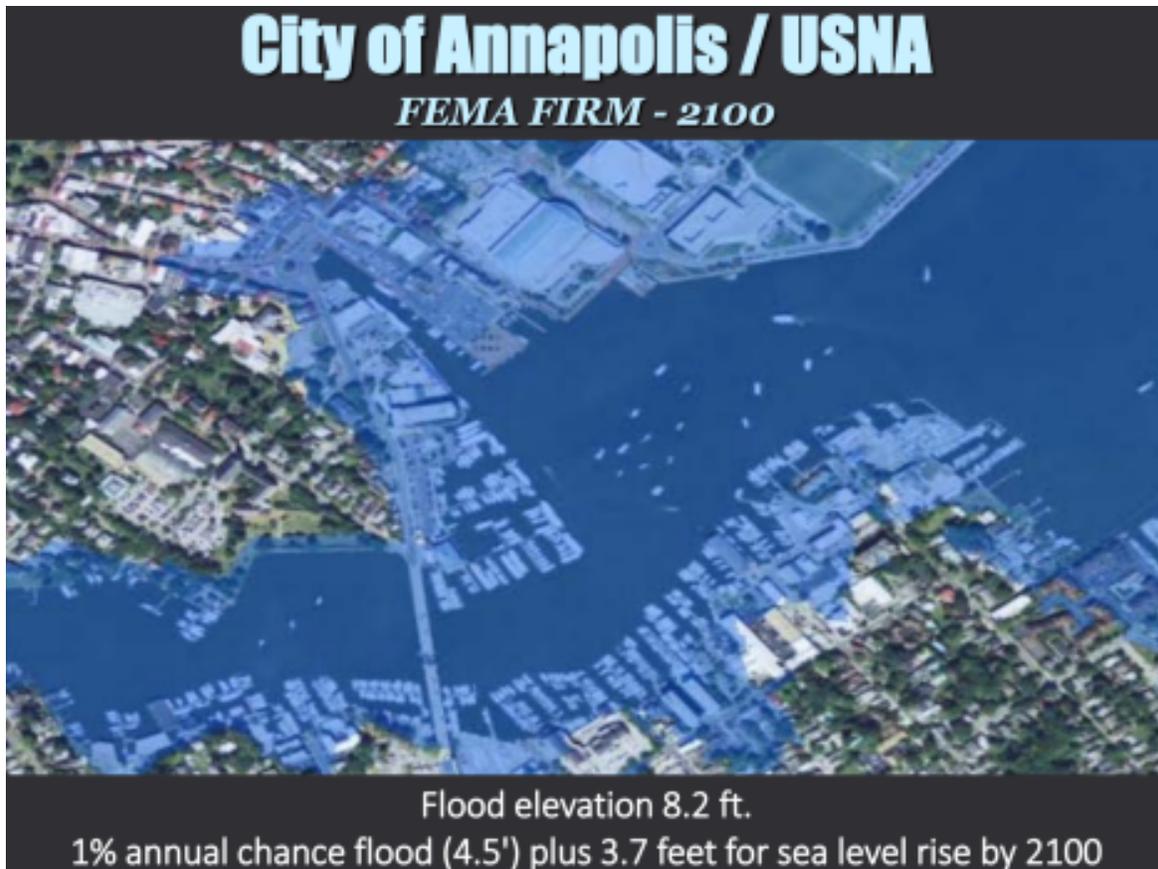
Exhibit 1. City of Annapolis Climate Report Current values and events :



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.



**SB0783: Favorable Testimony of Thomas E Moore, 3rd Rock Research
The Environmental Human Rights Amendment (EHRA)**

9 March 2022 p.3

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.

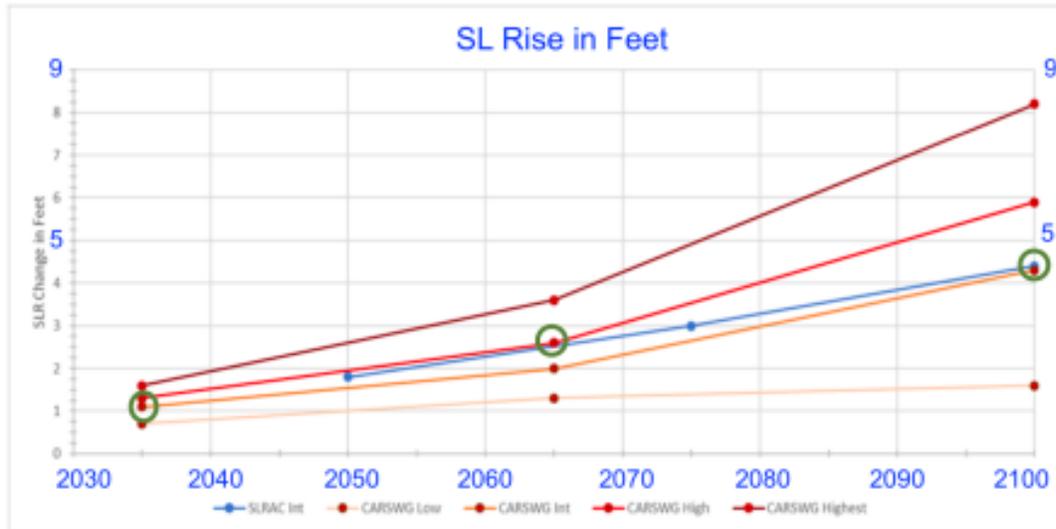
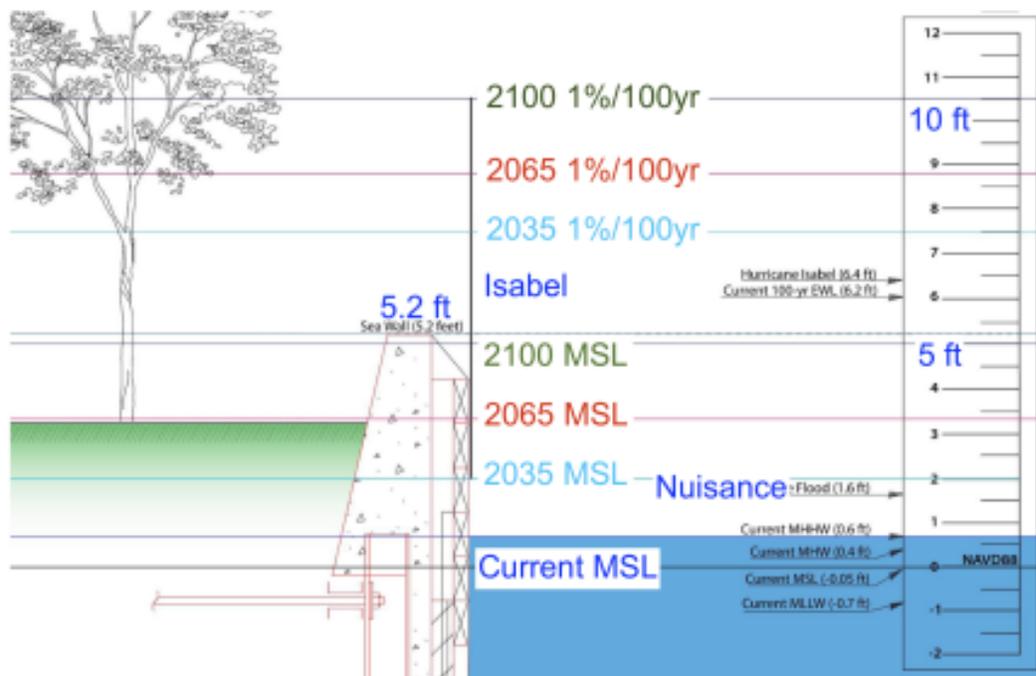


Exhibit 4. The recommended new seawall is 5.2 feet above current MSL Future MSL and 100 year flood levels based on rising MSL are shown at three dates.



SB 783 Testimony MD CEHC 2022 MD EHR Amendment 220

Uploaded by: Veronika Carella

Position: FAV

Maryland Children's Environmental Health Coalition

Judicial Proceedings Committee
Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice-Chair
2 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
phone: 410-841-3623

March 9, 2022 Hearing

SB 783

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 SB 783** 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 **SB 783**. 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 **SB 783** 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 that would 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 Maryland Department of Environment (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".

SB 783 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 **SB 783**.

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/sc53300/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

SB0783_washley-williwma_CXC_Fav.pdf

Uploaded by: Wandra Ashley-Williams

Position: FAV



March 8, 2022

BILL: SB0783
TITLE: Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights
POSITION: SUPPORT
HEARING DATE: March 9, 2022
COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings Committee
SPONSOR: Senator William Smith

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 SB0783.

Respectfully submitted,

Wandra Ashley-Williams
Regional Director
Climate XChange Maryland
410-914-8011

cc: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

SB 783_UNF_MML.pdf

Uploaded by: Angelica Bailey

Position: UNF



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

March 9, 2022

Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings

Bill: _____ SB 783 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

Position: Oppose

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League opposes Senate Bill 783. 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 SB 783 and respectfully requests an unfavorable committee report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scott A. Hancock	Executive Director
Angelica Bailey	Director, Government Relations
Bill Jorch	Director, Research and Policy Analysis
Justin Fiore	Manager, Government Relations

Opposition of SB 783 - Constitutional Amendment -

Uploaded by: Colby Ferguson

Position: UNF



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

March 9, 2022

To: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Opposition of SB 783 - Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony opposing SB 783. 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, aquaculture permits, and Deer Management 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 SB 783

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colby Ferguson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396

SB 0783 - Constitutional Amendment Environmental R

Uploaded by: Ella Ennis

Position: UNF



Ella Ennis, Legislative Chairman
Maryland Federation of Republican Women
PO Box 6040, Annapolis MD 21401
Email: eee437@comcast.net

Senator William Smith, Chairman
and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
Maryland Senate
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: **SB 0783** Constitutional Amendment Environmental Rights -- **OPPOSE**

Dear Chairman Smith and Committee Members,

The Maryland Federation of Republican Women has serious concerns about the impact of both Maryland's current "climate change" law and the broad addition of rights proposed for the Declaration of Rights to the Maryland Constitution in SB 0783. It declares that "every person has the fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment." But it doesn't define sustainable. Such a broad statement could be used to restrict the rights of citizens to the use of their land, the type of vehicle they drive, crops they can grow, the type of house that they can own and more.

While reducing air and water pollution is an extremely important goal, we must also ensure the safety of our people and communities. Scare tactics and those screaming "the world will end in 12 years" too often cause more harm than good.

The environmental mandates and energy systems we put in place must be reliable and affordable. The only logical energy plan is a plan that includes all energy sources. We cannot forget recent lessons in energy planning when windmills and solar panels became inoperable in Texas due to ice storms. What would have happened had all the vehicles trapped for 16-hours on I-95 in Virginia this winter been electric?

Marylanders don't need mandates, more taxes, more bureaucracy, or more red tape. Instead of passing even more restrictive climate change legislation that pushes Maryland further into the "all-electric" single-source energy path, please pause and include low-pollution natural gas, propane and nuclear energy in Maryland's energy portfolio.

Maryland needs multiple sources of reliable energy and the implementation schedule needs more time, not less.

Please vote an **UNFAVORABLE** report for **SB 0783**.

Sincerely,
Ella Ennis
Legislative Chairman

2022 SB 783 Environmental Rights.pdf

Uploaded by: Holly Porter

Position: UNF



Educate. Advocate. Innovate.

Date: March 8, 2022
To: Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings & Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committees
From: Holly Porter, Executive Director
Re: SB 783 – 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 SB 783 and urges an unfavorable committee report.

SB 783 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 permit 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



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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

Even if a judge was to not allow standing for a frivolous case, the farmer would still be required to hire an attorney to fight the standing. 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.

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/>



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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.

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 SB 783 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. And there would likely be additional lawsuits on state and counties that would slow down the process of a small farmer starting a business.

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 SB 783.

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/

SB783 - 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.

**SB783 – Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights
Judicial Proceedings Committee
March 9, 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 SB783 – Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights.

While SB783 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 SB783.**

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

MBIA Letter of Opposition SB 783.pdf

Uploaded by: Lori Graf

Position: UNF

March 9, 2022

The Honorable William C. Smith Jr.
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
Miller Senate Office Building,
2 East Wing 11 Bladen St.,
Annapolis, MD, 21401

RE: Opposition SB 783 Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights

Dear Chairman Smith:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **SB 783 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. MBAI 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 Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

SB 783_MDCC_Constitutional Amendment-Environmental

Uploaded by: Maddy Voytek

Position: UNF



LEGISLATIVE POSITION:

Unfavorable

Senate Bill 783

Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Dear Chairman Smith 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.

SB 783 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 SB 783.

SB 783 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, SB 783 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, SB 783 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 **SB 783**.

SB783_jpr_unf.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Powell

Position: UNF

MICHAEL C. POWELL
410.576.4175
mpowell@gflaw.com

1001 FLEET STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202
410.576.4000
www.gflaw.com

February 20, 2022

Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Office Building, Annapolis, MD
21401

Re: Opposition to SB 783– Constitutional Amendment –
Environmental Rights

Dear Chairman Smith:

On behalf of the Maryland Builders and NAIOP, I write in opposition to SB783

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.

Even if suit is not brought directly against a private defendant, the litigation will necessarily involve the private party. Under this amendment, a facility could have received all zoning and permits required to operate but “any person” could then sue to stop the facility from being built on the grounds that it is not “sustainable.” Obviously, the person or company planning to build the facility will either be named a defendant or need to move to intervene as a defendant to protect their interests.

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

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sustainable? Is a crematorium 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

¹ Thinking Anew about the Environmental Rights Amendment: An Analysis of Recent Commonwealth Court Decisions, John C. Dernbach, Commonwealth Professor of Environmental

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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.

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 there is no requirement that the individual reside or work near the challenged activity.
6. **The Amendment would Authorize Nearly Unlimited “NIMBY” litigation:** 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 greenhouse 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. This would be an open invitation for groups wanting to stop new facilities in their backyards.

We all support clean air, water, and a healthful environment. That is the reason why the General Assembly and Congress have 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

SB 783_MTBMA_UNF.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Sakata

Position: UNF



March 9, 2022

Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB 783 – UNFAVORABLE – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings 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.

Senate Bill 783 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 Senate Bill 783.

Thank you,

Michael Sakata
President and CEO
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association

SB0783-JPR_MACo_OPP.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Sanderson

Position: UNF



Senate Bill 783

Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Judicial Proceedings and Education, Health,
and Environmental Affairs Committees

Date: March 9, 2022

From: Dominic J. Butchko and Michael Sanderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **OPPOSES** SB 783. 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. SB 783 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 to, “conserve, protect, and enhance 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.

SB 783 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 SB 783 an **UNFAVORABLE** report.

SB783-NaturalResourcesTrustee-Unfavorable-Fink-D32

Uploaded by: Nelda Fink

Position: UNF

UNFAVORABLE Testimony – SB 783
Nelda Fink, 8372 Norwood Dr, Millersville
MD District 32

No. Giving the state the authority and responsibility to be trustee of the State's natural resources, including the air, land, water, wildlife, and ecosystems of the State, sounds to me like acting as God! No I don't want the state to be the trustee over anything natural. This is totally absurd!

Government was created to protect the rights of the people! It was not created to act like God and become trustees over all the land and soil! You are not protecting our rights by doing this, no you are controlling our natural resources which in the end will control us, the people. Which country do you live in anyway? I live in the United States where government was created and a constitution was created to protect the people from this exact kind of control and over reach.

The resources do not need government to be a trustee.

This bill isn't even funded, and I'm sure it will require billions PER YEAR out of the taxpayers pockets. At a time when your constituents have been economically destroyed, expecting to squeeze more from them for no real reason is unconstitutional and insane!

In addition to the evil this conspires, I will not support any additional funding for any thing new until the fundamental principles of our Constitution are understood and adhered to! This is the first principle establishing the foundation of our Constitution and that is the same constitution that you swore an oath to. Every time any one of you agree to more taxes being taken from your constituents without first replacing what was already taken away, you are continuing down the path of incompetence and malfeasance by not upholding your oath.

No more taking away our rights. No more giving the perception that the government needs to provide safety or justice in a crisis. Safety is a state of mind of the individual. The government cannot provide that state of mind. We The People did not create government to protect us, we created the government to **PROTECT OUR RIGHTS!!** There is no right to safety since that can only be defined by the individual, not by the population. I can feel safe standing in front of a roaring lion and you may not feel safe. It is because I have the right state of mind, and you do not. **YOU THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT PROVIDE SAFETY** so stop lying to the people and deceiving them into thinking that you can!!

Back to your oath of office, this bill sets up the government to take away more of our rights. Therefore moving it forward with a favorable response is violating your oath of office. Thankfully we the people now know who is consistently engaged in this violation and who is not.

Requesting that you follow your oath of office, do your sworn duty and do not pass this bill forward – give it an **UNFAVORABLE** response.

OPPOSE This Bill.

Nelda Fink

SB0783_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 William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Members, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: March 9, 2022

RE: **OPPOSE** – Senate Bill 783 – *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** Senate Bill 783.

Senate Bill 783 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 Senate Bill 783 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

SB 783_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

March 9, 2022

Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB 783 – UNFAVORABLE – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings 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.

Senate Bill 783 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 Senate Bill 783.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Marshall Klinefelter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marshall Klinefelter
President
Maryland Asphalt Association

SB783 22 Testimony .pdf

Uploaded by: Theresa Kuhns

Position: UNF



Senate Bill 783 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

Position: Unfavorable

Maryland REALTORS® has concerns with SB783 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, SB783 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**

SB0783_UNF_opposed_vmcaoy.pdf

Uploaded by: vince mcavoy

Position: UNF

SB0783 UNFAVORABLE

vince mcavoy

Dear Senators~

Please vote UNFAVORABLE on SB783, a bill which is harmfuland yet laced with flowery, kind words.

Its magical assertions are based on fantasy, with various nods to United Nations documents, including Agenda 2030. Further, the terms used are too broad and vague in scope for a bill. If you're trying to conserve things, let's conserve the history of better-bill-writing in Annapolis... you're lawyers...you know this is broad, vague, and inactionable.

Such phrases as “All living things are dependent on the gifts of a healthful environment..The full expression of human dignity is incompatible with a degraded environment” are...well, what does that even mean?

Other parts are incorrect, such as

“A sustainable, regenerative ecosystem and stable climate are essential to support a vibrant society and economy”. History shows us that the Industrial Era which forged the Western World was toxic & filthy; yet here we are.

But worse-than-incorrect is this bill's assertion that the State can adopt rights over the individual/personal liberty and declare birthrights outside of the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution.

These statements

“..every person has the fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment... Access to a healthful and sustainable environment is a birthright of every person..”

are not truthful.

How do we know they're not true. Well, will every mile of Maryland's multiple ecosystems be such a way? Every block? Every single rowhome?

While the imagery of the Garden of Eden is welcome, we face the reality that mankind is a fallen race, a people at odds with Almighty God's intentions. We see that mankind has “built-in the mix” many actors who deprive us of sustainable environments and peace in those environments.

- Criminals don't allow sustainability.
- Lobbyists don't.
- Communists don't.

There is no such right that you as a lawmaker or the State can guarantee, enforce or successfully iterate. So unless your aim is to wildly depopulate the earth (a whispered, tacit tenet of Agenda 2030), we will have waste, filth and (sometimes wrongful) depletion of natural resources.

Further, our State doesn't even have historical successes in accomplishing parts of SB0783, which aims 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”

People are free in America. The gifts of nature as provided by our Creator - as such has been left us from previous generations - is what we will work with and, if so moved, improve. Before plywood, aluminum siding and synthetic insulation, we generous people understood that culling forests was part of survival and prosperity for all.

But it is fair at this point to say that decades upon decades of a Democrat Supermajority in (nearly) all of Maryland's cities and in Annapolis has wrought hell on the Chesapeake Bay, our ecosystems, our worst-in-nation car traffic. This is not model “stewardship”. If there has been any “trusteeship” it has been as that of a drunken whore.

Our rights come from God in Heaven and are merely protected through the state and its agencies. There are no such rights as iterated in this bill and these fanciful attempts would be better spent ensuring that the operators of sewage release on President Street downtown need a Governor's signature before releasing (yet another) dump of 12 MILLION gallons of raw sewage into the Inner Harbor... over the years, surely Baltimore City has willfully released over 100 million gallons of raw sewage into the Inner Harbor...Trump got that (coarse) part correct about Baltimore City. I have to see that every week. No one's fixing that. [Quit pooping in my Inner Harbor.]

To be more specific, the states have no such claim to meting out stewardship of land, air, sea, ecosystems set apart from its people. The intention of this bill seems aligned with various actors and/or advocates who believe the state can usurp sovereignty over individuals' bodies by claiming right over resources which sustain life at a granular level. We are having that battle at the moment regarding masking. And these advocates employ masking/child abuse to receive federal graft to coerce lawmakers to overrule parents. Those pushing this offensive dysfunction should review historical revulsion to enslavement.

humbly
~vince