

HB261 (CF) - Buy Clean Maryland - LCV + Sierra CI

Uploaded by: Kristen Harbeson

Position: FAV



March 28, 2023

SUPPORT HB261: Public Projects - Global Warming Potential of Materials

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

Maryland League of Conservation Voters and the Sierra Club of Maryland support HB261, “Public Projects - Global Warming Potential of Materials,” and we thank Delegate Kerr for his leadership on this issue. The bill will require the Department of General Services to limit the amount of greenhouse gas emissions from any cement or concrete mixture used in certain public projects by establishing a “maximum global warming potential” for such products.

In 2022, the Maryland General Assembly passed the Climate Solutions Now Act, which sets the State on a path toward dramatically reducing our carbon emissions by the year 2031, and achieving net-zero emissions by 2045. To reach these ambitious but achievable goals, Maryland must take every opportunity to cut our greenhouse gas emissions. HB261 is a meaningful step toward this goal.

Cement contributes up to 8% of greenhouse gases worldwide. Emissions are tied to the presence of “clinker,” which is a key component of traditional cement-making, and emits the largest amount of CO₂ in the cement-making process. While the United States is a relatively small part of the cement market, one of the nation’s largest producers has a plant in Hagerstown, Maryland – a plant which is leading the way in adopting alternative cement-making practices that significantly reduce carbon emissions, by using an alternative to the carbon-heavy “clinker,” and more energy efficient processes.

HB261 offers the Maryland General Assembly the opportunity to put our state government in a position of leading the way for private companies by giving preference to these improved practices. This will achieve two critical outcomes: supporting a Maryland business that has shown important industry leadership; and reducing carbon emissions from public projects. Moreover, this bill would also bring environmental and health benefits to local communities that host concrete manufacturing plants by supporting alternatives that reduce other emissions during the production cycle.

Communities with cement manufacturing plants are not only overburdened by the harmful emissions released during the industrial process of producing concrete, but their residents also suffer from diesel emissions, and noise and public safety concerns associated with the heavy diesel trucks that serve concrete operations daily. While legislation is pending which would help to transition the fleet of medium and heavy duty trucks to zero-emission electric vehicles, this process will take time, and this pollution will remain a concern for these communities. We urge the Maryland General Assembly to take these cumulative impacts into account to ensure that no community in Maryland is disproportionately impacted by pollution and other environmental harms.

We urge a favorable report on HB261.

HB 261 CBF FAV B&T.pdf

Uploaded by: Matt Stegman

Position: FAV



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education

House Bill 261

Public Projects – Global Warming Potential of Materials (Buy Clean Maryland Act)

Date: March 28, 2023
To: Budget & Taxation Committee

Position: **Support**
From: Doug Myers
Maryland Senior Scientist

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** HB 261 which requires the producers of cement and concrete used for construction of state buildings, highways and other major capital projects to provide information on the environmental impact of, and the Department of General Services to ascertain the global warming potential of, those products. The bill also requires the Department to set a maximum global warming potential for certain cement and concrete and project that maximum in bidding documents for state projects.

This bill importantly recognizes that greenhouse gas emissions occur throughout the lifecycle of a project, including the materials used, how they are manufactured and the distances they travel from point of origin to where they are used. Cement and concrete, in particular, have high greenhouse gas emissions associated with their manufacturing. According to EPA, Carbon dioxide equivalent emissions from cement manufacturing exceed 65 M metric tons/year¹.

This bill also allows for the consideration of the accounting of travel distances in the total global warming potential of a material. From this standpoint, the bill could provide favorable conditions for Maryland companies and companies within the region that would transport the materials few miles.

As with any program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, CBF points out that doing so also reduces emissions of nitrogen oxides which become a source of nitrogen loading to the Bay not assigned to any sector for reduction.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 261.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/trinationalanalysis/greenhouse-gas-reporting-cement-manufacturing-sector>

HB261SenateBAT_IndivisibleHoCoMD_FAV_RichardDeutsc

Uploaded by: Richard Deutschmann

Position: FAV



HB261 – Public Projects - Procurement of Construction Materials (Buy Clean Maryland Act)

Testimony before

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

March 28, 2023

Position: Favorable

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Richard Deutschmann, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in **support of HB261**, which will reduce the environmental impact and carbon footprint of concrete for certain procurements. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We appreciate the leadership of Del. Kerr, as well as Sen. Elfreth, for sponsoring this important legislation.

Concrete is a carbon-intensive material that is widely used in construction of buildings, transportation, and other infrastructure. It is also responsible for over 7% of all global greenhouse gas emissions, given the fact that we produce 150 tons of concrete **every second**. Additionally, the Biden Administration has made it a priority to procure clean, reduced carbon materials for all of our Federal construction projects. This bill simply begins the process of reducing this impact from concrete, for use in state building projects. It will have the likely effect of aligning our state more closely with construction standards for the Federal Government, a huge constituency in our region. This will eventually create a larger regional impact as other states make similar commitments, which are already codified or being debated in California, New Jersey, Virginia, New York and Colorado.

Thank you for your consideration of this crucial legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable committee report.

Richard Deutschmann
Columbia, MD 21045

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Position: INFO



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Atif Chaudhry, Secretary

BILL: **House Bill 261**
Public Projects - Procurement of Construction Materials
(Buy Clean Maryland Act)

COMMITTEE: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

DATE: March 28, 2023

POSITION: Letter of Information

Upon review of House Bill 261 – Public Projects – Procurement of Construction Materials (Buy Clean Maryland Act), as passed in the House, the Department of General Services and the Maryland Green Building Council (MGBC), provides these comments for your consideration.

The Department of General Services (DGS) and the Maryland Green Building Council (MGBC) note the amendment approved in the House Government Operations subcommittee was mistakenly not included in the bill before the full House Committee and the full House body. DGS and the MGBC request the following amendment, as approved by the House subcommittee, be adopted in the Budget and Taxation Committee:

- Delete in its entirety SECTION 4 on page 6, lines 3-27.

For additional information, contact Ellen Robertson at 410-260-2908