



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.

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