



**TESTIMONY FOR SB0743**  
**Climate, Labor, and Environmental Equity Act of 2023**

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Jackson

**Committee:** Education, Energy, and the Environment

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

The undersigned organizations express their strong support for **SB0743 – Climate, Labor and Environmental Equity Act of 2023** and thank the sponsor, Senator Jackson, for introducing such an important piece of legislation.

This bill requires the Department of the Environment, when conducting an EJ Score Review during the process of issuing an approval for a permit that may impact an underserved or overburdened community, to conduct a climate and environmental equity evaluation of the permit. Needless to say, this is something that thoughtful, professional agencies should have been doing all along. Before any permit is approved that would have an anticipated impact on already marginalized communities, SOMEONE should be looking at the impact and should ensure that the decision to approve it does not have adverse impacts. Additionally, they should be looking to ensure that the jobs that would be created by approving the permit are good jobs. All of these things are part of being good stewards.

However, Maryland's public agencies generally do not do a good job of systematically assessing how their decisions may contribute to environmental injustice, climate change, and worker or labor impacts and have historically taken actions that have contributed to public health disparities for BIPOC, low-income, and limited English proficient communities. These communities are disproportionately burdened by environmental hazards that include exposure to polluted air, waterways, and landscapes. The hazards ripple through the community creating disparities in health, wealth, and even life expectancy.

The Climate, Labor and Environmental Equity Act creates a quantifiable way to protect these communities, engage in meaningful communication, and prioritize these communities for investment.

We strongly support this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.

## Endorsing Organizations

350 Baltimore	HoCo Climate Action	Potomac Conservancy
350 Montgomery County	Howard County Indivisible	Sustainability Advisory
Adat Shalom Climate Action	Howard County Sierra Club	Committee
Assateague Coastal Trust	Interfaith Power and Light, DC,	Sierra Club, Maryland
Audubon Naturalist Society	MD, NoVa	Chapter
Casa de Maryland	Labor Network for	Strong Future Maryland
Cedar Lane Unitarian	Sustainability	Sunrise Baltimore
Universalist Church	Laurel Resist	Takoma Park Mobilization
CHEER	Maryland Environmental	Environment Committee
Chesapeake Bay Foundation	Health Network	Talbot Rising
Chesapeake Climate	Maryland League of	The Climate Mobilization
Action Network Action Fund	Conservation Voters	Montgomery County
Chesapeake Physicians for	Maryland Legislative	The Nature Conservancy
Social Responsibility	Coalition	Unitarian Universalist
Chispa MD	Maryland NAACP	Legislative Ministry
Clean Air Prince Georges	State Conference,	Wicomico NAACP
Clean Air Prince Georges	Environmental Justice	WISE
Clean Water Action	Committee	
Climate Law & Policy Project	Maryland Poor People's	
Climate Parents of Prince	Campaign	
Georges	MCPS Clean Energy	
Climate Reality Montgomery	Campaign	
County	MD Campaign for	
Climate Solutions	Environmental Human	
Climate Stewards of	Rights	
Greater Annapolis	Mid-Atlantic	
Climate XChange - Maryland	Ministry of Maryland	
Coalition For Smarter Growth	MoCo DCC	
Columbia Association Climate	Montgomery Countryside	
Change	Alliance	
Concerned Citizens Against	Montgomery County Faith	
Industrial CAFOs	Alliance	
Do The Most Good	Mountain Maryland	
Montgomery County	Movement	
Echotopia	National Parks Conservation	
Elders Climate Action	Association	
Environmental Justice Ministry	Nuclear Information &	
Frack Free Frostburg	Resource Service	
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization		
Greenbelt Climate		
Action Network		

