



TESTIMONY FOR HB0840
Climate, Labor, and Environmental Equity Act of 2023

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Boyce
Committee: Environment and Transportation
Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition
Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair
Position: FAVORABLE

The undersigned organizations express their strong support for **HB0840 – Climate, Labor and Environmental Equity Act of 2023** and thank the sponsor, Delegate Boyce, 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

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| 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 | | |

