



February 22, 2023

Chairman Kumar P Barve,
Environmental and Transportation Committee
Taylor House Office Building, Room 251
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee:

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland Inc. has voted to offer **favorable** support for House Bill 840 - Climate, Labor, and Environmental Equity Act of 2023. **This bill is on the 2023 legislative priority agenda of the Black Caucus.**

This bill will require the Department of the Environment to conduct an evaluation regarding the impact of issuing approval for certain environmental permits, require the Department to provide opportunities for communication with certain residents; and alter reporting requirements for specific State agencies.

For generations, the State of Maryland has made decisions about identifying harmful, unhealthy, and potentially dangerous projects in ways that have detrimentally impacted the Black community. As it stands, low-income communities of color in Maryland are more likely to live in close proximity to facilities that release toxic chemicals. This legislation will combat the ongoing environmental racism and injustice in Maryland. The Legislative Black Caucus aims to protect the health and well-being of all Black Marylanders and this bill aligns with our mission. For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland supports House Bill 840 and would appreciate your favorable support of this legislation.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland