



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

HB -840

Delegate Boyce Climate, Labor, and Environment Equity Act of 2023

POSITION

SUPPORT

HB 840 Climate, Labor, and Environment Equity Act of 2023- This legislation requires Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to conduct a climate and environmental equity evaluation of a permit application if, after conducting an Environmental Justice(EJ) score review under current law, MDE determines that approving a permit may impact an underserved community or an overburdened community. The bill also establishes provisions relating to such an evaluation and establishes requirements for MDE in reference to public input such as an opportunity for State residents to opt in to notifications. The bill alters existing provisions that require State agencies to review its planning, regulatory and fiscal programs to identify and recommend actions to completely integrate the consideration of Maryland's greenhouse gas reduction goal and the impact on climate change. Additionally, the bill requires the Maryland Department of Labor to report annually whether agency decisions support businesses the further equitable labor and wage standards.

The Prince George's County Council enthusiastically supports The Climate Equity Labor Bill as the legislation will prevent continued environmental racism and injustice in Maryland. It will ensure that key Maryland agencies are held accountable for the state's climate, environmental justice and labor goals and it will incentivize more robust evaluation and outreach for environmental permits that disproportionately harm overburdened and underserved communities.

The Prince George's County Council strongly SUPPORTS this legislation. For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council respectfully requests the Committee's favorable consideration of its position.

Prepared by: Ramirez Group, LLC on behalf of the Prince George's County Council

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