



Mission: To improve public health in Maryland through education and advocacy
Vision: Healthy Marylanders living in Healthy Communities

HB0840 Climate, Labor and Environmental Equity Act of 2023
Hearing Date: 03/08.2023
Committee: Environment and Transportation
Position: SUPPORT

Delegate Boyce and members of the Environment and Transportation committee: The Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA) would like to express support for House Bill 840.

As representatives for Maryland's health, we are deeply concerned about the impact of industrial operations, highway expansion, landfills and power plants on underserved and overburdened communities. For far too long, Maryland has allowed companies to locate harmful, unhealthy and dangerous projects in ways that additionally wound these communities. Considerations for the impact of these projects on workers, jobs, property values and the environment is essential to Maryland's efforts to address environmental injustices.

The Climate, Labor and Environmental Equity Act of 2023 will provide a process to consider how these projects and polluters impact the environment, labor, and the wellbeing of Marylanders. This bill requires that impacts on climate and environmental justice are reported annually and made public, and that environmental permits undergo a justice assessment so that residents are better informed on and protected from the effects of polluters on their environment.

Maryland should be able to pride itself on its commitment to equality and justice for all, and the Climate, Labor and Environmental Equity Act of 2023 will support the state in making major achievements in the development of just and healthy environments. MdPHA strongly supports the proposed bill and believes it to be essential to hold polluters accountable so as to improve public health outcomes in our state.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue, and we urge a favorable report of HB0840.

The Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA) is a nonprofit, statewide organization of public health professionals dedicated to improving the lives of all Marylanders through education, advocacy, and collaboration. We support public policies consistent with our vision of healthy Marylanders living in healthy, equitable, communities. MdPHA is the state affiliate of the American Public Health Association, a nearly 145-year-old professional organization dedicated to improving population health and reducing the health disparities that plague our state and our nation.

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