



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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HB 840 - Climate, Labor, and Environmental Equity Act of 2023
House Environment and Transportation Committee
March 8, 2023

SUPPORT

Donna S. Edwards
President

Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 840. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of Maryland's 300,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

In addition to analyzing demographic data and expanding public comment opportunities, HB 840 requires the Maryland Department of Labor (MDOL) complete a report on whether the decisions of state agencies support equitable labor standards. This includes analyzing whether state agencies are contracting with entities that pay prevailing wages, comply with state reporting requirements, follow wage and hour laws, participate in registered apprenticeship programs, offer health and retirement benefits, maintain proper licenses, and promote local hiring.

Through state grants, incentives, and contracts Maryland is able to shape how industries behave. The decisions of state agencies should reflect our values. Maryland's state agencies should be focused on creating family-sustaining jobs with real benefits.

We strongly support the addition of a labor equity analysis to state agency decisions and urge the committee to issue a favorable report for HB 840.