



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 261

Public Projects – Global Warming Potential of Materials (Buy Clean Maryland Act)

Date: February 22, 2023

To: Health & Government Operations Committee

Position: Support

From: Doug Myers

Maryland Senior Scientist

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** HB 261 which requires Department of General Services to ascertain the global warming potential of cement and concrete used for construction of state buildings, highways and other similar projects. The bill also requires the Department to set a maximum global warming potential for certain cement and concrete and project that maximum in bidding documents for state projects.

This bill importantly recognizes that greenhouse gas emissions occur throughout the lifecycle of a project, including the materials used, how they are manufactured and the distances they travel from point of origin to where they are used. Cement and concrete, in particular, have high greenhouse gas emissions associated with their manufacturing. According to EPA, Carbon dioxide equivalent emissions from cement manufacturing exceed 65 M metric tons/year¹.

This bill also allows for the consideration of the accounting of travel distances in the total global warming potential of a material. From this standpoint, the bill could provide favorable conditions for Maryland companies and companies within the region that would transport the materials few miles.

As with any program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, CBF points out that doing so also reduces emissions of nitrogen oxides which become a source of nitrogen loading to the Bay not assigned to any sector for reduction.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 261.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/trinationalanalysis/greenhouse-gas-reporting-cement-manufacturing-sector>