

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HJ :0001

Environmental Human Rights

****FAVORABLE****

March 3, 2023

TO: Delegate Ann Healey, Chair, Delegate Marvin E. Holmes, Jr., Vice-Chair and the members of the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee

FROM: Rev. Margaret S. Brack, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network, Diocese of Easton

DATE: March 3, 2023

- Assures that every person in Maryland has a right to a healthful environment and enables those who suffer from environmental degradation to challenge those actions and to stand before the law as claimants to their right to a healthful environment.
- Our faith traditions teach that protecting Creation means protecting the life of our human neighbors, the well-being of our communities, and the health of our natural places. A damaged environment threatens all life by interfering with the rights of all people to drink pure water, breathe clean air, and live healthfully now and in the future.
- Ensuring healthy communities expresses our love for our neighbor--loving all neighbors as ourselves; not just the ones who live in healthy environments.
- Without such a right, communities of color and low income suffer disproportionate concentrations of pollution and environmental degradation.
- The General Convention of the Episcopal Church adopted many environmental resolutions that support such an amendment last July, 2022. The United Nations has adopted such an amendment. Six states have adopted it and eleven are considering it.

The Diocese of Easton requests a favorable report.

