



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 1406

Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity – Environmental Impact Analysis and Existing Burden Report

Date: February 21, 2025

To: House Economic Matters Committee

Position: **FAVORABLE**

From: Gussie Maguire,
MD Staff Scientist

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** HB 1406, which requires those applying for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to submit an initial Environmental Impact Analysis. The analysis must also include the location's EJ score. If the project is sited within at-risk census tracts (at or above 75th percentile EJ score), an existing burden report must also be submitted.

This bill responds to historic inequities, where poor communities, often communities of color, have been forced to share space with disproportionate numbers of industrial facilities, landfills, incinerators, power plants, and other pollution sources. Overburdened communities face health impacts as well as damage and lack of safe access to natural spaces. Emissions and discharges from multiple facilities within a single watershed place undue stress on the waterway and its surroundings. An existing burden report would help the Public Service Commission make more informed decisions about where new facilities should be built and operated.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 1406.

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

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.