

February 21, 2025

Support - HB1406 - Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity - Environmental Impact Analysis and Existing Burden Report
House Economic Matters Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to support HB1406 - Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity - Environmental Impact Analysis and Existing Burden Report. United by a shared commitment to the health and well-being of all Marylanders, Healthy Climate Maryland is a coalition of dedicated public health and medical professionals that seeks to address climate change and environmental challenges by focusing on their impacts on public health. We are working to educate, advocate, and build strong partnerships towards a healthier, more sustainable future for Maryland.

HB1406 fills important gaps in how Maryland considers applications for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to ensure that polluting energy-generating facilities aren't increasingly concentrated in communities in Maryland already overburdened by pollution. For polluting energy-generating projects, HB1406 requires extra information from the permit applicant and requires the PSC to consider whether the project will increase the pollution burden on the surrounding community as part of their review process. If the project will cause or contribute to disproportionate public health impacts on already-overburdened communities, the bill states that the PSC will deny the project or issue a conditional CPCN with provisions that will protect public health and provide benefits to the community.

The World Health Organization estimates approximately 12.6 millions deaths globally are attributed to unhealthy environments.¹ Environmental Impact Analyses are important tools that can be used to address these gaps by identifying potential environmental risks associated with these certificates or permits and reduce the burden of these risks in these communities.² HB 1406 acts to mitigate risk and has the potential to save communities money, reduce burdens and potential harm that can be identified and avoided using an environmental impact analysis as a tool. At a time where budgets are being reduced, this bill is one of many ways in which the state of Maryland can further protect its communities and support a healthier environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to support HB 1406 and encourage preventative measures to ensure the safety of Marylanders.

¹ World Health Organization. (2016, March 15). An estimated 12.6 million deaths each year are attributable to unhealthy environments. [Www.who.int](https://www.who.int/news/item/15-03-2016-an-estimated-12-6-million-deaths-each-year-are-attributable-to-unhealthy-environments).
<https://www.who.int/news/item/15-03-2016-an-estimated-12-6-million-deaths-each-year-are-attributable-to-unhealthy-environments>

² Environmental Impact Assessment US | EcoOnline. (2024, December 17). EcoOnline.
<https://www.ecoonline.com/en-us/glossary/environmental-impact-assessment/>