

**FAVORABLE Testimony for HB1406**  
**Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity - Environmental Impact Analysis and Existing Burden Report**

House - Economic Matters Committee  
Walkiria Pool, On Behalf of Centro de Apoyo Familiar

February 21th, 2025

Dear Honorable Chair Wilson and Members of the Committee,

Centro de Apoyo Familiar is pleased to offer **favorable testimony in support of HB1406 - Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity - Environmental Impact Analysis and Existing Burden Report**

We are a non-profit organization that transforms communities through economic, social, and educational empowerment in collaboration with community and faith-based organizations.

For generations, Maryland has made decisions about locating harmful, unhealthy, and dangerous facilities in ways that have overburdened many communities in the state, especially communities of color and low-wealth communities. Our state doesn't consider how industry impacts a community's health when permits are issued. Local communities are often not consulted about where these projects get sited, and in many cases, have been left out entirely of this process.

In the transition to a net-zero state, Maryland has the opportunity to accelerate emissions reductions in the community that deserve it the most - those most overburdened. No additional polluters should be permitted in any community with an EJ score in the upper 75th percentile.

HB1406 does two critical things: allows the PSC to reject or alter certificates of public convenience and necessity based on an environmental justice (EJ) score, which is based on current pollution levels, community health, and the demographics of a community and requires facilities that are granted permits to pay into a Cumulative Impacts Mitigation Fund Agreement aimed at addressing health issues the facility will cause.

Our membership consists of CAF's Connectors Network, which includes over 500 faith-based organizations engaged through the CCN Connectors training program. This program provides faith leaders with clear direction on developing successful community initiatives, raising awareness, and empowering families by connecting them to diverse resources for the development of functional families and sustainable communities. We are predominantly located in Maryland, Washington D.C, Virginia, Massachusetts, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic. Additionally, CAF is affiliated with many organizations across the U.S., along with nearby countries such as Guatemala, Venezuela, Mexico, and El Salvador. We seek to uplift and advocate for working-class communities of color who are adversely impacted by environmental justice issues all across Maryland.

Ex. Census Tract 8040.01 for example, where East Riverdale and Bladensburg meet in Prince George's County. This low-income immigrant community has an exposure score in the top 83% and overall score EJ score in the top 96%. The residents of this community are exposed to countless toxins and are in

proximity to hazardous materials. Their homes lie in close proximity to the Bladensburg Industrial Park and a number of highly polluting industrial facilities, including Aggregate Industries' Bladensburg Asphalt Division, Aggregate Industries' Bladensburg ReadyMix Concrete & Hot Mix Asphalt Plant, DC Materials and the Recycle One Processing Facility & Transfer Station. Annapolis Road, which splits into Route 450 and Landover Road as well as Edmonston Road and Kenilworth Avenue, also passes by these apartments, overburdening communities during peak traffic and commuter hours.

EX. Census tract 2504.02 in Baltimore City, which encompasses parts of Brooklyn Park and is adjacent to Cherry Hill, has a total EJ score in the 99.6% and a matching overburdened environmental subscore in the top 99%. The data from these 2 communities explicitly outlines how seriously overburdened some of our communities are. The effects of living in polluted communities can range from cancer, asthma, low birth weights in newborns, to daily discomfort. The BRESKO Trash Incinerator, CSX Terminal, Patapsco Wastewater Treatment, a variety of concrete and asphalt plants, Curtis Bay Energy Medical Waste Incinerator, petroleum terminals, landfills, and other facilities are all located within this strip of land. The communities here are overwhelmingly low-income and the majority of the inhabitants are residents of color. People living in this area are nearly guaranteed to have pollution-burden associated health outcomes.

EX. East Baltimore, specifically near the Pulaski Industrial Area, is overburdened with polluting facilities. Constellations operates its Philadelphia Road Constellation Power Station(61 megawatt facility<sup>1</sup>) next to the Baltimore Recycling Center Processing Facility & Transfer Station. Both these facilities are just part of a network of polluting facilities less than a mile from each other. Schuster Concrete is a single metal linked fence from row homes. Among the many other toxic polluting facilities in the area is the Petroleum Fuels and Transfers Company(PF&T), which is equipped with fuel burners and millions of gallons of petroleum of storage<sup>2</sup>. The traffic on 895 and Pulaski Highway also burdens the surrounding communities. This community does not need another polluting facility.

EX. Brandywine and the nearby communities have two permitted gas-fired power plants within 5 miles of each other. These two facilities - the KMC Thermo Mattawoman and Parkways Generating Keys Energy Center - are surrounded by an upper middle-class African-American community. The community is also full of materials distributors like sand, gravel, concrete, and other industrial products which run-off and guarantee daily heavy and medium duty truck transit.

EX. Lincoln Park, Rockville MD was an original place for African-American homeownership in Rockville<sup>3</sup>. It also became the adjacent neighborhood to the East Gude Landfill and industrial park. Today, this neighborhood is next to the Washington Gas Peak Shavings gas-fired power station, 4 active concrete and asphalt plants, and retired East Gude landfill-gas power plant(site of an underground landfill). Additionally, industrial traffic on East Gude Drive constantly pollutes the air.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.constellationenergy.com/our-company/locations/location-sites/philadelphia-road-generating-station.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://apexoil.com/location/baltimore-north-md/>

<sup>3</sup>[https://www.washingtonpost.com/realestate/history-endures-as-change-comes-to-rockvilles-lincoln-park-neighborhood/2020/12/08/0e9956d0-292a-11eb-8fa2-06e7cbb145c0\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/realestate/history-endures-as-change-comes-to-rockvilles-lincoln-park-neighborhood/2020/12/08/0e9956d0-292a-11eb-8fa2-06e7cbb145c0_story.html)

People living in highly-polluted areas should not have to worry about more polluting facilities opening up in their communities. Therefore, the ability for a CPCN to be denied or altered based on the living history of pollution and who lives there is a critical next step to improving the quality of life for residents in Maryland's polluted communities. For these reasons, Centro de Apoyo Familiar urges a favorable report.

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