

MARYLAND COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Senate Bill 428 **Chesapeake Bay Legacy Act**

Position: Support

Committee: Education, Energy and Environment

Date: February 3, 2025

From: Camille Burke, Chair of Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities

The Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) **SUPPORTS** SB 428.

The Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) is charged with examining Environmental Justice (EJ) issues and sustainable community opportunities that may be associated with public health, safety, economy, government, or other issues relating to EJ and sustainable communities. Senate Bill 428 or the Chesapeake Bay Legacy Act would align with CEJSC priorities as the legislation would provide equitable treatment and protection of communities threatened by development or environmental pollution. Protecting Maryland's Natural Resources is an essential part of ensuring the protection of Maryland's health and environment.

Additionally, the Chesapeake Bay Legacy Act would establish the Environmentally Engaged Farming (LEEF) Program Fund and alter the definition of "healthy soils" to include native farming practices. This legislation is important to CEJSC as this would align with our overall goal to increase cross-agency collaborations that advance environmental justice.

Accordingly, CEJSC asks for a **FAVORABLE** report for SB 428.

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