



# SIERRA CLUB

MARYLAND CHAPTER

P.O. Box 278  
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**Committee: Ways and Means**  
**Testimony on: HB 603 Earned Income Tax Credit – Notice of Eligibility – Alteration**  
**Position: Favorable**  
**Hearing Date: February 6, 2025**

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club urges a favorable report on HB 603. The bill allows the Comptroller to send notices about earned income tax credit eligibility to employers by either mail or electronic means. Sending the notices by email will save paper that would enter the waste stream, and also save the expense of printing and postage.

Current law requires the Comptroller to mail annual notices about the maximum income eligibility for the state's earned income tax credit to all employers in the State. The law requires employers to then provide electronic or written notices to employees who may be eligible for the earned income tax credit. Providing the notice to employers by email as this bill allows would make it easier for employers to provide the required notice to their employees since they could simply forward the email to their employees.

When the notices are mailed to the over 190,000 employers in Maryland, thousands of pieces of used paper end up entering the waste stream to be transported and disposed. The mail delivery of those notices to employers also adds to the state's greenhouse gas emissions.

We applaud the Comptroller's Office for their aggressive pursuit of sustainability and efficiency. Two of the ways a state agency can reduce its carbon footprint (the amount of greenhouse gases its operations add to the atmosphere) are to adopt sustainable processes that reduce the use of paper and to reduce vehicular travel. HB 603 will serve both of those goals and save taxpayer expense at the same time.

For those reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB 603.

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