

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB116, which requires state agencies to include climate and sustainability information when submitting major contracts to the Maryland Board of Public Works.

This bill is an important step forward for Maryland, ensuring that our public dollars are invested in projects that are not only efficient and cost-effective but also environmentally responsible. By requiring agencies to evaluate and report on climate impact, sustainability practices, and alignment with Maryland's greenhouse gas reduction and net-zero goals, SB116 brings transparency and accountability to state procurement decisions.

Sustainable planning is not just good for the environment — it is also good fiscal policy. Projects designed with long-term climate resilience in mind can reduce future repair and maintenance costs, prevent damage from extreme weather events, and protect communities across the state. This proactive approach ensures that Maryland remains a leader in responsible governance and environmental stewardship.

I strongly encourage the committee to support SB116 and help create a framework where climate impact is a formal consideration in state contracting, ultimately promoting a greener, safer, and more sustainable Maryland for current and future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Thompson