

SB0116_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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TESTIMONY ON SB#0116 - POSITION: FAVORABLE

Board of Public Works – Contract Review – Climate and Sustainability Information

TO: Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and members of the Budget & Taxation Committee
FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0116, **Board of Public Works – Contract Review – Climate and Sustainability Information**

The Maryland Department of the Environment has published the *Maryland Climate Pollution Reduction Plan*¹

This is Maryland's plan to achieve its near-term climate goals and place the state on a path to achieve net-zero emissions by 2045. New policies will transition the state from the fossil fuel era of the past to a clean energy future. Marylanders will benefit from cleaner air, improved public health, lower energy costs, and more jobs with higher wages.

The Maryland Board of Public Works:²

...is the highest administrative body in the Maryland state government. Consisting of the governor, the comptroller, and the treasurer, it now derives its ultimate authority from the state Constitution and is responsible for the expenditure of all capital appropriations and the superintendence of nearly all state public works projects. Each year it deals with hundreds of millions of dollars

This bill will center Maryland's climate goals in decision making by requiring a State agency to provide certain climate and sustainability information on submission of a contract award recommendation to the Board of Public Works for architectural and engineering service, construction, energy performance, general miscellaneous, and landlord lease and tenant lease contracts; requiring liaisons to the Board to ensure compliance; and requiring the climate and sustainability information to be placed on the Board agenda.

This bill is a positive step on the path to meeting those climate goals.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#/0116.

¹ <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/ClimateChange/CPRP/Pages/Overview.aspx>

² <https://bpw.maryland.gov/Pages/about-bpw.aspx>