



TESTIMONY FOR SB0116
Board of Public Works – Contract Review – Climate and Sustainability
Information

Bill Sponsor: Senator Hettleman

Committee: Budget and Tax

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0116 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

The Board of Public Works has a pretty important role to play in approving what major projects move forward in the state. In applications to the Board, most potential contractors include in their proposals many of the issues involved in the contract award, but most of the time, esoteric concerns like what the effect on the environment or sustainability are glossed over or not even addressed.

This bill, if enacted, would require that for any contract award reviewed by the Board of Public Works include the following information –

- if the contract contributes to the state’s greenhouse gas emissions reduction or net-zero carbon goals and how those benefits are attained
- how the contract provides for resilience adaptation to projected climate change and extreme weather events over the term or the useful life of the supplies or services
- how the contract advances the state’s goals and leadership on climate mitigation, adaptation, resiliency, or innovation for sustainably sourced supplies or services
- how the contract includes supplies or services that are environmentally preferable
- how the contract incorporates aspects of design or construction that are consistent with the standards adopted by the Maryland Green Building Council
- how the contract incorporates aspects of design or construction that are consistent with the intent of the high-performance building requirements

It also directs the liaisons to the Board’s three members to ensure that this information is included. We do not expect the members of the Board to be fully knowledgeable about the climate and sustainability issues involved in a proposal, but they should be fully informed.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.