



SB 3116— Board of Public Works – Contract Review – Climate and Sustainability Information
Senate Budget & Tax Committee
February 18, 2026

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee: I am Brooke Lierman, Maryland's Comptroller, and I submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 116. I want to thank Senator Hettleman for her leadership in bringing this legislation forward, and the Governor's team for their collaborative work in reaching agreement on implementation.

What This Bill Does

Senate Bill 116 requires State agencies to provide climate and sustainability information when submitting contract award recommendations to the Board of Public Works for approval. It applies to contracts for architectural and engineering services, construction, energy performance, general miscellaneous services, and leases. Agencies must disclose how each contract advances the State's goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045, its commitment to 100% clean energy by 2035, resilience and adaptation to projected climate change and extreme weather events, the procurement of environmentally preferable products and services, and compliance with high performance green building standards. This information must appear on the BPW agenda when each contract is considered, ensuring it is part of the public record.

Earlier today, my office announced an agreement with the Governor's office to meet many of these requirements through a Board of Public Works advisory. The agreement establishes sensible implementation guardrails — focusing disclosure requirements on contracts exceeding one million dollars in base value and tenant leases of 35,000 square feet or greater, while appropriately exempting indefinite delivery and indefinite quantity contracts where scope cannot be determined at the time of award. Senate Bill 116 codifies this commitment into law, ensuring it endures beyond any single administration.

Why It's Important

As Comptroller and a member of the Board of Public Works alongside Governor Moore and Treasurer Davis, I have seen firsthand how much influence the BPW has over how Maryland spends its money. The billions of dollars the State directs each year toward construction, energy, and real estate should be working toward a cleaner, more resilient Maryland — not working against it. Transparency about whether that is actually happening is something Marylanders have a right to expect.

Climate resiliency has been a core priority of my office since I took office. We hired the agency's first-ever Climate Resilience Director. We joined the Maryland Commission on Climate Change and the Coast Smart Council. We have worked to incorporate climate risk as investment risk in the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System. We have engaged counties and municipalities on climate-related tax incentives. And we have already been voluntarily increasing climate and sustainability language in BPW agenda items — because we believe this transparency is essential. This bill makes that standard the law of the land, not just the practice of one office.

My office is prepared to fulfill our compliance and agenda-setting role under this legislation, and I look forward to working with our partners across state government to implement it effectively.

I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 116.



