

# **CSG SB116 Board of Public Works Climate Info testi**

Uploaded by: Bill Pugh

Position: FAV

## Testimony on SB 116

### Board of Public Works – Contract Review – Climate and Sustainability Information Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

**Date: February 16, 2026**

**Position: SUPPORT**

The Coalition for Smarter Growth supports SB116 Board of Public Works, Contract Review, Climate & Sustainability Information.

**SB116 will ensure that Maryland’s capital investment and procurement decisions are informed by how well they support the state’s climate change goals.** Under the bill, agencies would be required to provide climate and sustainability information when submitting a contract to the Board of Public Works. Maryland communities, including Prince George’s and Montgomery counties where we work, are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The state Climate Solutions Now Act (CSNA) provides a required blueprint for how the state must reduce greenhouse gas emissions and become more resilient. Thus, it is critical that state public works decisions are informed by climate and sustainability considerations and support the CSNA.

Also, at a time when tax resources are scarce, SB 116 will help ensure that Maryland’s state capital dollars are spent wisely to support the state’s climate mitigation goals.

We ask for a **favorable report for SB 116** by the committee. Thank you.

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The Coalition for Smarter Growth advocates for walkable, bikeable, inclusive, and transit-oriented communities as the most sustainable and equitable way for the Washington, DC region to grow and provide opportunities for all. We have worked extensively in the Maryland suburbs of DC, in particular in Prince George’s and Montgomery counties.

# **SB 116 Comptroller of MD Support**

Uploaded by: Brooke Lierman

Position: FAV



**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.**





# **SB0116 Board of Public Works Contract Review Clima**

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



**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.

# **SB 116 BPW Contract Review -Climate and Sustainabi**

Uploaded by: Chris Parts

Position: FAV





16 February 2026

The Honorable Senator Guy Guzzone  
Chair of the Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support for SB 116  
Board of Public Works – Contract Review – Climate and Sustainability Information

Dear Chair Guzzone and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

I am writing to voice AIA Maryland's support for Senate Bill 116 – Board of Public Works – Contract Review – Climate and Sustainability Information. AIA Maryland represents nearly 2,000 architects in the state of Maryland and advocates for the profession and the quality of the built environment. From our work prior to passage of the High Performance Building Legislation back in 2008, AIA Maryland has advocated for our state funded projects to lead by example. We have set goals as a state to achieve significant greenhouse gas reductions toward our net-zero emissions goal for 2045 and stating those clearly with every project gives us a chance to confirm that we are heading in the direction toward success in achieving that goal.

State and jurisdictional Requests For Proposals (RFP's) typically clearly state project goals, and the selected teams will have already identified their intended project path forward. We encourage you to support this legislation and begin at the start of a project award to be fully aware of climate and sustainable goals when funding the project. As designers, we work at the start with predicted data toward achieving Climate and Sustainable goals and once the buildings are constructed we can assess the operational data to see if predictions made were accurate and to see if operational adjustments can be made to enhance efficiency of operations.

AIA has many member firms that have joined our initiative called the AIA 2030 Commitment, tracking toward achieving net zero carbon built environment by 2030. This legislation aligns closely with our goals as an organization, and we strongly believe that being clear about goals and measuring progress will ultimately lead us toward a built environment that we can all be proud of. We are pleased to support this bill and we ask for your to vote in favor of SB 116.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Parts", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Chris Parts, AIA  
Director, Past President, AIA Maryland

**SB0116.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kathleen Thompson

Position: FAV

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

**SB116\_MDSierra\_FAV\_2\_18 (1).pdf**

Uploaded by: Lindsey Mendelson

Position: FAV

**Committee: Budget and Taxation****Testimony on: SB 116 - Board of Public Works – Contract Review – Climate and Sustainability Information****Position: Support****Hearing Date: February 18, 2026**

The Maryland Sierra Club urges a favorable report on SB 116. This legislation requires an agency to provide climate and sustainability information when submitting a contract to the Board of Public of Works. This information would include how the contract contributes to the state’s greenhouse gas reduction goals, provides for resilience or adaptation to extreme weather events, and incorporates design principles consistent with Building Energy Performance Standards and standards adopted by the Green Building Council.

It is important that agencies provide this information to the Board of Public Works so that the Board can determine if these contracts are in alignment with the state’s goals to cut climate pollution and build a more liveable future for everyone. The Maryland Department of Environment’s [preliminary greenhouse gas emissions inventory](#) indicated that we are falling further behind on achieving the state’s climate goals and indicated there was a 0.2% **increase** in net emissions in the state compared to 2020.

The Climate Solutions Now Act (CSNA) was enacted in 2022 and is a landmark policy that provides a roadmap to protect Marylanders’ health and minimize our climate impact. In addition to establishing a goal of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 60% by 2031 and achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2045, the bill established the Building Energy Performance Standard (BEPS) and other key provisions relating to just transition of fossil fuels, school bus electrification, building electrification and efficiency, and environmental justice.

It is critical the Board of Public Works has the information it needs to ensure that investments we are making are moving us in the right direction. Maryland’s Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, released in December 2023, found that the included “new policies will generate up to \$1.2 billion in public health benefits, \$2.5 billion in increased personal income, and a net gain of 27,400 jobs between now and 2031 as compared with current policies. Average households will save up to \$4,000 annually on energy costs. In order to realize these benefits, we must first have a way to assess if state procurement and funding decisions are helping us stay on track to meet these goals.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on SB 116.

Lindsey Mendelson  
Senior Transportation Campaign  
Representative  
[lindsey.mendelson@mdsierra.org](mailto:lindsey.mendelson@mdsierra.org)  
Maryland Sierra Club

Josh Tulkin  
Chapter Director  
[Josh.Tulkin@MDSierra.org](mailto:Josh.Tulkin@MDSierra.org)  
Maryland Sierra Club

**SB 0316-Title VI.pdf**

Uploaded by: Martin Stein

Position: FAV



**Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment**

**Testimony: SB 0316 Institutions of Higher Education and Elementary and Secondary Schools - Title VI Coordinators**

**Organization: Jewish Community Relations Council of Howard County, MD**

**Submitting: Laura Salganik, Chair**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

**Hearing Date: February 18, 2026**

The Jewish Community Relations Council is submitting this testimony in favor of: SB 0316, Institutions of Higher Education and Elementary and Secondary Schools - Title VI Coordinators. The Bill requires the governing board of each institution of higher education in the State and local school systems to designate a Title VI Coordinator to ensure compliance with Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 provides an excellent framework for identification of discriminatory acts and acts of hatred in the education systems. In 2024, a group of parents from Howard County filed a complaint about the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) with the Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR). HCPSS and OCR eventually reached an agreement, which provided detailed provisions for analysis and actions to address the identified issues.

HCPSS has taken steps to remedy the situation, including adding religion to its bullying reporting form, providing antisemitism education for administrators, and conducting a school climate survey. However, responsibility for implementing the agreement is fragmented across departments, which makes it challenging to track, both for HCPSS and for us. Particularly with the weakened state of OCR and the number of challenges facing the schools, it doesn't seem that there is anyone accountable for implementing the agreement. This Bill would create the needed accountability for effective implementation.

We, therefore, respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0316.

**2026 - SB0116 - Contract Review-Climate and Sustai**

Uploaded by: Patrick Crump

Position: FAV





## **TESTIMONY FOR SB 0116**

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

### **Budget and Taxation Committee**

### **FAVORABLE**

TO: Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair; Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice-Chair; and the Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

FROM: Patrick Crump, member of the Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network

DATE: February 18, 2026

The Episcopal Church believes that global climate change is not only a scientific concern or environmental issue, but what the United Nations calls "the defining issue of our time... at a defining moment" (UN Secretary General, September 10, 2018). We believe that clean, safe, and renewable energy is essential to preserve God's creation, and our Church has passed numerous resolutions in support of this, such as on fossil fuel non-proliferation and supporting a clean energy future. We are proud that Maryland has mandated a net-zero emissions target by 2045, with a 60% reduction by 2031, thus hastening the adoption of clean energy sources and decarbonization technologies.

As reported by Maryland Matters on January 30 this year, however, Maryland is heading in the wrong direction as it strives to meet these targets. The sobering data, revealed by the University of Maryland's Center for Global Sustainability, indicates that state and federal policies currently on the books in Maryland will only reduce globe-warming emissions 42% from 2006 levels by 2031.

We support the Board of Public Works – Contract Review – Climate and Sustainability Information Act as one of the many measures needed to keep Maryland's emissions reduction targets front and center in contracting and investment decisions that may have an impact on our environment.

The Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network requests a FAVORABLE report.

# **Copy of SB0116\_Board\_of\_Public\_Works\_Contract\_Revi**

Uploaded by: Rebecca Turner

Position: FAV

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

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Hettleman

**Committee:** Budget and Tax

**Organization Submitting:**

**Person Submitting:** Rebecca M. Turner

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0116 on behalf of Rebecca M. Turner.

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
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- 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. I 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.

Rebecca M. Turner

21 Walnut Hill Road

La Plata, MD 20646

# **Testimony in support of SB0116 - Contract Review –**

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

SB0116\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV  
02/18 /2026  
Richard Keith Kaplowitz  
Frederick. MD 21703-7134

## 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*<sup>1</sup>

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:<sup>2</sup>

...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.**

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

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

**SB116 Amendment 30ACB700-FE0B-46E8-87B4-5F262AF4FD**

Uploaded by: Shelly Hettleman

Position: FAV



SB0116/493129/1

AMENDMENTS  
PREPARED  
BY THE  
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE  
SERVICES

11 FEB 26  
15:41:10

BY: Senator Hettleman

(To be offered in the Budget and Taxation Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 116

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 6, strike “certain liaisons to” and substitute “the Office of Executive Secretary of”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 3, in line 4, strike “LIAISONS TO” and substitute “OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF”; and strike beginning with “FROM” in line 4 down through “TREASURER” in line 5.

**SB116 FinalReprint.pdf**

Uploaded by: Shelly Hettleman

Position: FAV



# SENATE BILL 116

P1

(PRE-FILED)

6lr1309  
CF 6lr1099

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By: **Senator Hettleman**  
Requested: October 23, 2025  
Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026  
Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Board of Public Works – Contract Review – Climate and Sustainability**  
3 **Information**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring a State agency to provide certain climate and sustainability  
5 information on submission of a certain contract award recommendation to the Board  
6 of Public Works; requiring ~~certain liaisons to~~ the Office of Executive Secretary of the  
Board to ensure compliance with  
7 this Act; requiring the climate and sustainability information to be placed on the  
8 Board agenda; and generally relating to the Board of Public Works and climate and  
9 sustainability.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
11 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
12 Section 10–101  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

15 BY adding to  
16 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
17 Section 10–208  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
21 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

22 **Article – State Finance and Procurement**

23 10–101.

24 In this title, “Board” means the Board of Public Works.

1 10-208.

2 (A) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES OF  
3 CONTRACTS SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD FOR ITS APPROVAL:

4 (1) ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES;

5 (2) CONSTRUCTION;

6 (3) ENERGY PERFORMANCE;

7 (4) GENERAL MISCELLANEOUS;

8 (5) LANDLORD LEASE; AND

9 (6) TENANT LEASE.

10 (B) THE BOARD SHALL REQUIRE AN AGENCY TO PROVIDE, TO THE EXTENT  
11 APPLICABLE, THE FOLLOWING CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY INFORMATION ON  
12 SUBMISSION OF A CONTRACT AWARD RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD:

13 (1) IF THE CONTRACT CONTRIBUTES TO THE STATE'S GREENHOUSE  
14 GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION OR NET-ZERO CARBON GOALS, HOW THOSE BENEFITS  
15 ARE ATTAINED;

16 (2) HOW THE CONTRACT PROVIDES FOR RESILIENCE ADAPTATION TO  
17 PROJECTED CLIMATE CHANGE AND EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS OVER THE TERM OR  
18 THE USEFUL LIFE OF THE SUPPLIES OR SERVICES;

19 (3) HOW THE CONTRACT ADVANCES THE STATE'S GOALS AND  
20 LEADERSHIP ON CLIMATE MITIGATION, ADAPTATION, RESILIENCY, OR INNOVATION  
21 FOR SUSTAINABLY SOURCED SUPPLIES OR SERVICES;

22 (4) HOW THE CONTRACT INCLUDES SUPPLIES OR SERVICES THAT ARE  
23 ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE, AS DEFINED BY THE MARYLAND GREEN  
24 PURCHASING COMMITTEE UNDER § 14-410 OF THIS ARTICLE;

25 (5) HOW THE CONTRACT INCORPORATES ASPECTS OF DESIGN OR  
26 CONSTRUCTION THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE STANDARDS ADOPTED BY THE  
27 MARYLAND GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL; AND

3 REPRINT OF SENATE BILL 116 as amended by SB0116/493129/1 02/11/26 at 3:40 PM

1 (6) HOW THE CONTRACT INCORPORATES ASPECTS OF DESIGN OR  
2 CONSTRUCTION THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE INTENT OF THE HIGH  
3 PERFORMANCE BUILDING REQUIREMENTS UNDER § 3-602.1 OF THIS ARTICLE.

4 (C) ~~THE LIAISONS TO OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE BOARD FROM THE OFFICES OF~~  
~~THE GOVERNOR,~~  
5 ~~THE COMPTROLLER, AND THE STATE TREASURER~~ SHALL:

6 (1) ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS  
7 SECTION; AND

8 (2) ENSURE THAT THE INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THIS SECTION  
9 APPEARS ON THE AGENDA OF THE BOARD WHEN THE CONTRACT IS TO BE  
10 CONSIDERED.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
12 1, 2026.

**SB116\_FAV\_Hettleman.pdf**

Uploaded by: Shelly Hettleman

Position: FAV

**SHELLY HETTLEMAN**  
*Legislative District 11*  
Baltimore County



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410-841-3131  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3131  
Shelly.Hettleman@senate.state.md.us

Chair, Rules Committee  
Budget and Taxation Committee

*Subcommittees*  
Capital Budget  
Health and Human Services  
Chair, Pensions

*Joint Committees*  
Senate Chair, Audit and Evaluation  
Senate Chair, Pensions

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

**TESTIMONY OF SENATOR SHELLY HETTLEMAN**  
**SB 116 - BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS – CONTRACT REVIEW –**  
**CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY INFORMATION**

Maryland has adopted ambitious climate goals, including greenhouse gas emissions reduction and net-zero carbon targets. However, without systematic assessment of how state contracts align with these goals, we risk making procurement decisions that inadvertently undermine our environmental commitments. Currently, the Board of Public Works approves billions of dollars in contracts and agreements annually across construction, leasing, architectural services, and other categories. These decisions have significant long-term implications for our state's carbon footprint, the climate resilience of state infrastructure, leadership in sustainable procurement, and stewardship of taxpayer resources.

Senate Bill 116 establishes a straightforward disclosure requirement. Before the Board approves contracts or agreements in eight key categories, agencies must provide relevant climate and sustainability information, including: (1) how the contract or agreement contributes to Maryland's greenhouse gas reduction and net-zero goals, (2) how the contract or agreement accounts for climate change adaptation and extreme weather events over the lifespan of the project, (3) how the contract or agreement advances Maryland's position as a climate leader through sustainable sourcing, (4) how the contract or agreement aligns with Maryland Green Purchasing Committee standards and (5) Green Building Council guidelines, (6) how the contract or agreement complies with high-performance building requirements, and (7) how the contract or agreement is consistent with the Building Energy Performance Standards.

The bill ensures that Board members have complete information when approving major expenditures. Climate impacts should be as transparent as cost and timeline considerations. Moreover, by requiring disclosure, SB 116 creates accountability mechanisms that help ensure state procurement decisions support rather than hinder Maryland's environmental commitments. Climate-resilient infrastructure and energy-efficient designs also generally cost

less over their lifetime. This transparency helps identify projects that save taxpayer money while protecting the environment.

Environmental information should already be part of good project planning and agencies developing contracts should understand the ecological implications as part of responsible stewardship. The bill makes this information transparent to decision-makers and the public. The bill also avoids encumbering procurement decisions by requiring environmental information only “to the extent applicable,” thus recognizing that not every contract will have climate implications. This approach avoids unnecessary paperwork and delays, while capturing critical information when it matters.

In short, Senate Bill 116 represents common-sense governance. It ensures that when Maryland spends public money on contracts worth millions or billions of dollars, we do so with full awareness of the environmental implications. As Maryland faces increasing climate challenges, from sea level rise to extreme heat and flooding, every state decision matters. This bill helps ensure our procurement decisions are part of the solution, not part of the problem. Thank you for considering Senate Bill 116.

# **SB 116 - STO Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Dereck Davis

Position: FWA



**Dereck E. Davis**  
State Treasurer

**Jonathan D. Martin**  
Chief Deputy Treasurer

**Testimony of the Maryland State Treasurer's Office**

**Senate Bill 116: Board of Public Works – Contract Review – Climate and Sustainability Information**

**Position: Favorable with Amendments**

**Senate Budget & Taxation Committee**

**February 18, 2026**

As introduced, Senate Bill 116 requires the State Treasurer's liaison to the Board of Public Works (BPW/Board), as well as the liaisons for the Governor and the Comptroller, to (1) ensure compliance with various provisions in the bill, and (2) verify that specified climate and sustainability information appears on the Board's agenda items. While the State Treasurer's Office (STO) strongly supports enhancing the environment-related information that comes to the Board, requiring the liaisons to ensure compliance the law would constrain STO's limited resources and represent a change in the current practice. For the reasons discussed below, STO respectfully requests a favorable with amendments report on Senate Bill 116.

**Current Practice**

BPW establishes requirements on a variety of topics, including the form and content of agenda items, via published advisories. The Board's staff typically ensure compliance with these requirements, as well as any applicable laws. STO's liaison, in turn, works with the other liaisons to advise the members on these matters. Requiring the liaisons to ensure compliance with requirements in the law in this manner would necessitate STO to redirect resources to implement the bill. This is because STO has only one full-time staff person, whose workload is at full capacity, dedicated to supporting Treasurer Davis as a member of the Board.

**Amendment to Reflect Current Practice**

The fiscal note indicates that "Given the technical and broad nature of the required information, agencies may need additional resources and staff familiar with the State's

LOUIS L. GOLDSTEIN TREASURY BUILDING, 80 CALVERT ST., ROOM 109, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

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410-260-7160 TREASURER □ 410-260-7080 CHIEF DEPUTY TREASURER

<https://treasurer.state.md.us>



climate goals and sustainability initiatives.” By extension, the liaisons to the Board would require some level of expertise to ensure compliance and verify that the necessary information is included in each agenda item.

STO believes that the Board’s direct staff, rather than the liaisons, are better suited to implement the new requirements. For the foregoing reasons, STO respectfully requests a favorable with amendments report on Senate Bill 116. Please contact Laura Atas, Deputy Treasurer for Public Policy ([latas@treasurer.state.md.us](mailto:latas@treasurer.state.md.us)), with any questions.

# **AUC of Maryland\_SB 116\_UNFAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Andrew Griffin

Position: UNF



## BOARD MEMBERS

Thomas Linton  
*President*

Lavern Dettman  
*Vice President*

Bruce Bergeron  
*Treasurer*

Keith Eagle  
*Past President*

Artie Bell

Robert Brode

Thomas J. Iacoboni

Tim Kaptein

William Leibrandt

Phil Ligon

Raymond Marocco, Jr.

Dominic Pope

Matthew Ruddo

Jason Sebald

Ian Stambaugh

February 18, 2026

Legislative Position: Unfavorable  
Senate Bill 116  
Board of Public Works - Contract Review - Climate and Sustainability  
Information  
Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

Dear Chair Guzzone and members of the committee:

Established in 1950, the Associated Utility Contractors of Maryland, Inc. (AUC) is dedicated to advancing the utility contracting industry across the state. Our mission is to foster strong relationships between utility contractors and their clients, uphold the highest professional standards within the industry, and elevate the reputation of utility professionals within the business community. We actively advocate for public policies that address industry challenges and contribute to improving Maryland's overall business environment.

SB 116 requires State agencies to submit climate and sustainability information to the Board of Public Works (BPW) before approval of certain contracts, including construction contracts. Agencies must describe whether a contract advances greenhouse gas reduction goals, incorporates climate resilience, aligns with environmentally preferable purchasing, and is consistent with Maryland Green Building Council and high-performance building standards.

Underground utility contractors perform critical public health and safety work, installing and repairing water, sewer, stormwater, electric, and communications infrastructure. By nature, this work involves excavation and heavy equipment and is not primarily designed as a climate-mitigation activity. Requiring agencies to characterize whether such contracts "advance climate goals" risks creating a perception that essential infrastructure projects, and the contractors who perform them, are not climate friendly. This reputational implication would be both misleading and unfair, particularly when contractors are simply executing the scope of work directed by the State.

Additionally, SB 116 would add another layer of review to the BPW approval process. The bill's fiscal and policy note acknowledges that agencies will require additional staff resources and that procurement timelines may be affected by the added reporting requirements. For

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time-sensitive infrastructure projects, delays increase costs, disrupt project schedules, and postpone critical repairs and upgrades that Maryland communities depend upon.

Of particular concern is the lack of clarity regarding emergency procurements. Underground utility contractors are frequently called upon to respond to water main breaks, sewer collapses, and other urgent public safety events. The bill does not clearly exempt emergency procurements from the climate reporting requirements. Imposing additional documentation requirements in emergency situations could delay response times and undermine the very purpose of expedited procurement authority.

For these reasons, we respectfully request an unfavorable report on SB 116.

Sincerely,

The Associated Utility Contractors of Maryland (AUC)

**SB 116\_MAA\_UNF.pdf**

Uploaded by: Tim Smith

Position: UNF



Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

February 18, 2026

**RE: SB 116 – UNFAVORABLE – Board of Public works – Contract Review – Climate and Sustainability Information**

Dear Chair Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Asphalt Association (MAA) represents approximately 110+ members, including 20 material producers, contractors, engineering firms, and associate members, supporting a 7,000-person workforce. MAA actively collaborates with regulatory agencies to advocate for the asphalt industry, ensuring fair regulations at both the state and federal levels. Additionally, we support adequate funding for Maryland's multimodal transportation system.

Senate Bill 116 would require State agencies to submit climate and sustainability information when presenting certain contract award recommendations to the Board of Public Works for approval, including descriptions of how a contract advances greenhouse gas reduction goals, climate resilience, and green building standards, to the extent applicable.

MAA opposed SB 116 because it creates additional regulatory scrutiny and uncertainty by mandating a broad environmental and infrastructure impact study at the Board of Public Works that could lead to new restrictions or compliance costs for construction-related industries. The bill's focus on air, water, and energy impacts raises concern that its findings could be used to justify stricter environmental controls affecting asphalt production and paving activities. Additionally, the study diverts state resources and policy attention away from core transportation and road-building priorities that directly support Maryland's construction economy.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask for an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 116.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tim Smith'.

Tim E. Smith, P.E.  
President  
Maryland Asphalt Association

# **SB 116- LOI Green ResiliencyContract Assessments**

Uploaded by: John Woolums

Position: INFO

***SB 116 - Board of Public Works - Contract Review - Climate and Sustainability Information***

**Position:** Letter of Information

**Committee:** Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

**Date:** February 18, 2026

**From:** John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Maryland Department of General Services (DGS) is providing this Letter of Information for the Committee’s consideration regarding Senate Bill 116, “Board of Public Works - Contract Review - Climate and Sustainability Information.”

DGS appreciates the intent of Senate Bill 116 to require state agencies to provide climate and sustainability information when submitting contracts to the Board of Public Works (BPW). As Maryland’s lead agency for green purchasing, green building standards, and greenhouse gas reduction efforts in State facilities, DGS recognizes the need for attention to environmental factors when making decisions on state contracts. DGS is also the State’s lead procurement agency through the Office of State Procurement (OSP). Regarding SB 116, OSP has identified challenges for state agency procurement officers and OSP to implement the bill’s requirements without investments in additional staff with subject matter expertise, staff training, and other resources. DGS respectfully requests that the Committee consider these factors when deliberating on this legislation.

The DGS Office of Energy and Sustainability (OES) provides leadership and support for the State’s greenhouse gas reduction efforts. The OES purchases renewable energy, installs electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure, operates the Energy Performance Contracting (EPC) program, reports on progress towards the energy savings goal of Governor Moore’s Executive Order 01.01.2023.07 Leading by Example in State Government, performs energy retrofit projects at State facilities, manages a statewide utility tracking database, and chairs the Green Purchasing Committee. The OES also supports the Maryland Green Building Council, engages in pilot programs, such as retro-commissioning existing State facilities, develops procurements and plans to decarbonize the state’s facilities, and fields calls from agencies on various energy conservation-related topics. Since the 2023 issuance of Governor Moore’s Executive Order 01.01.2023.07, the OES has taken on a leadership role in meeting the energy savings goal of the Executive Order.

DGS also leads Maryland’s environmentally preferable purchasing activities as the home of the Green Purchasing Committee. This important statewide program plays a crucial role in meeting the Moore/Miller Administration’s goals to combat climate change, protect the environment, and be the greenest state in the country by leveraging the purchasing power of Maryland’s state government to minimize our impact on the environment, public health, and the climate. In 2025, the program continued to demonstrate the benefits of green procurement for all Marylanders. I am happy to report that as a result of our efforts, the Committee documented: \$80,448,731 in environmentally preferable purchases by state agencies; 146,660 tons of greenhouse gas reductions (CO<sub>2</sub>e); and \$3,337,907 in cost savings.



DGS recognizes the value of facilitating informed decision-making by the Board of Public Works regarding the climate and sustainability impacts of proposed contracts. However, DGS believes the breadth and scope of the types of complex policy analysis called for by SB 116 present several operational issues.

As the bill is written, it would require analysis of state contracts proposed for BPW approval regarding: 1) greenhouse gas reduction or net-zero goals, 2) adaptation to climate change, 3) climate resiliency through innovation, 4) alignment with state green purchasing standards, 5) alignment with green building standards, and 6) alignment with high-performance building standards.

To implement SB 116 accurately and effectively, DGS submits that it would be most practicable to require program offices within purchasing departments and agencies to provide the required climate and sustainability information and attest to the best of their knowledge to the accuracy of that information. However, to fully implement this approach, state agencies would likely need to invest in: 1) Additional staff training on climate and sustainability analysis; 2) development of internal policies and procedures; and 3) hiring climate or sustainability subject-matter experts.

Without such investments, DGS anticipates potentially significant procurement delays as a result of the bill's requirements. These analysis and reporting requirements would apply to the following types of contracts: Architectural/ Engineering Services, Construction, Energy Performance, General Miscellaneous, Landlord Lease, and Tenant Lease. For each covered contract, agencies would be required to provide detailed information and analysis addressing six parameters that evaluate how the project: contributes to Maryland's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals; adapts to climate change; and aligns with the State's broader sustainability objectives. These criteria require substantive technical analysis and policy interpretation.

Lastly, the policy goals and objectives of this bill could potentially be accomplished through a BPW Advisory or regulations, which could provide a more flexible means of governing policy and procedures for the environmental assessment of contracts before final review and approval by BPW.

Again, DGS is providing this testimony for informational purposes, and the Department looks forward to being of further assistance as the Committee considers this bill.

**Contact:** John R. Woolums, Esq., Director of Government and Legislative Affairs  
(410) 260-2908 (O), (667) 434-0008 (M), [john.woolums@maryland.gov](mailto:john.woolums@maryland.gov).

**SB0116\_DNR\_LOI\_B&T\_2-18-26.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lydia McPherson

Position: INFO



Wes Moore, Governor  
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor  
Josh Kurtz, Secretary  
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

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February 18, 2026

**BILL NUMBER: SENATE BILL 116 - FIRST READER**

**SHORT TITLE: BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS - CONTRACT REVIEW - CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY INFORMATION**

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: LETTER OF INFORMATION**

### **EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT'S POSITION**

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The bill requires DNR to supply additional information to the Board of Public Works prior to the Board considering any contract in the contract categories of Architecture and Engineering Services, Construction, Energy Performance, General Miscellaneous, Landlord Lease, and Tenant Lease.

The agency supports efforts to improve compliance with state climate and environmental requirements and standards. While the provisions of this bill may be intended to improve transparency, as written, the bill could slow procurement timelines and would require additional staff to be hired. In particular, the legislation requires providing information on several undefined terms whose agency expectations are unclear. As a result, the Department expects some confusion during implementation and the need to hire additional procurement staff to process the additional required information.

Additionally, the DNR is aware that the Department of General Services is currently working in tandem with the Board of Public Works on a policy framework to address the overarching goal of this bill, along with some more direct and specific guidance to assist agencies.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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DNR is actively working to improve time to completion for the hundreds of capital projects in our capital stack and has been successful in completing more projects more quickly. In particular, the agency has been working, at the behest of the Administration and the General Assembly, to more quickly spend down the funds provided to the agency by the Great Maryland Outdoors Act. As a result, the Agency is looking for every opportunity to improve project timelines.

### **BILL EXPLANATION**

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The bill requires agencies to provide a wide range of information regarding climate and sustainability to the Board of Public Works prior to a Board vote on a contract in the categories of Architecture and Engineering Services, Construction, Energy Performance, General Miscellaneous, Landlord Lease, and Tenant Lease.

Contact: Lydia McPherson, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services  
[lydia.mcpherson1@maryland.gov](mailto:lydia.mcpherson1@maryland.gov) ♦ 410-260-8113 (office) ♦ 443-875-7785 (cell)

**SB0116 - TSO - LOI - Board of Public Works – Contr**

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: INFO



Wes Moore  
Governor  
Aruna Miller  
Lieutenant Governor  
Kathryn Thomson  
Acting Secretary

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February 18, 2026

The Honorable Guy Guzzone  
Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

***Re: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 116 - Board of Public Works – Contract Review – Climate and Sustainability Information***

Dear Chair Guzzone and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) offers the following letter of information for the Committee's consideration of Senate Bill 116.

Senate Bill 116 would require the MDOT to provide specific climate and sustainability information when submitting a contract award recommendation to the Board of Public Works:

Each year MDOT seeks Board of Public Works' approval for an average of 90 Architectural and Engineering (A/E) contracts, 35 Construction contracts, 43 General Miscellaneous items, five Landlord Leases and 6 Tenant Leases. Each item would need to explain how the contract:

- Attains greenhouse gas emissions reductions or net-zero carbon goals;
- Provides for resilience adaptation to projected climate change and extreme weather events over the term or the useful life of the supplies or services;
- Advances the state's goals and leadership on climate mitigation, adaptation, resiliency, or innovation for sustainably sourced supplies or services;
- Includes supplies or services that are environmentally preferable, as defined by the Maryland Green Purchasing Committee;
- Incorporates aspects of design or construction that are consistent with the standards adopted by the Maryland Green Building Council; and
- Incorporates aspects of design or construction that are consistent with the intent of the High-Performance Building Requirements.

These explanations will increase the length of those 177 agenda items per year and the time required to prepare them. Preparing them effectively will require additional coordination between procurement officers, program staff, and Department climate experts to appropriately evaluate the nature of the contract and its impacts on the identified policy areas.

MDOT notes that certain ambiguities in both the language of the bill and the scope of contracts make it difficult for the Department to evaluate the full impact of the legislation. For example, many A/E contracts procured by MDOT are open-ended, indefinite quantity contracts. While these

contracts may offer a specific area of focus, the specific work implemented under them is not known at this time. The information able to be provided to BPW at the time of submission may be modest.

At the same time, the level of effort in performing this analysis is unclear in the legislation as drafted. Qualitative responses to these areas of focus would be less labor-intensive than the quantitative analysis that might be required to specifically estimate greenhouse gas emission reductions and progress toward net-zero emissions. In the absence of greater specificity around the expectations of this work, MDOT is concerned about performing expansive analyses in the midst of the award process.

Presently, MDOT understands that the Department of General Services and the Board of Public Works are coordinating on a policy framework to address elements of this bill. The Maryland Department of Transportation looks forward to continued collaboration with the sponsor on Senate Bill 116 and respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating Senate Bill 116.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Mickler  
Director of Government Affairs  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
410-865-1090