

CAROLYN A. QUATTROCKI
Chief Deputy Attorney General

LEONARD J. HOWIE III
Deputy Attorney General

CARRIE J. WILLIAMS
Deputy Attorney General

SHARON S. MERRIWEATHER
Deputy Attorney General

ZENITA WICKHAM HURLEY
Deputy Attorney General



PETER V. BERNS
General Counsel

CHRISTIAN E. BARRERA
Chief of Staff

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

ANTHONY G. BROWN
Attorney General

March 12, 2026

TO: The Honorable Brian Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Tiffany Clark
Director, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: Senate Joint Resolution 3 – Apology and Acknowledgement of the State's
Responsibility in Racial Terror Lynchings (Support)

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) supports Senate Joint Resolution 3 – Apology and Acknowledgement of the State's Responsibility in Racial Terror Lynchings. Senate Joint Resolution 3 formally apologizes for Maryland's role in 38 documented acts of racial terror lynching between 1854 and 1933, acknowledges the State's complicity in those crimes (including the failure of government entities to protect Black Marylanders, pass anti-lynching legislation, or hold perpetrators accountable), and commits the State to taking reparative actions as recommended by the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

This resolution directly supports the OAG's commitment to equal justice, civil rights, and the restoration of public trust in government institutions. The 14th and 15th Amendment violations the resolution acknowledges, including the denial of equal protection, due process, and voting rights, are not merely historical wrongs. They are part of the constitutional foundation the OAG is charged with upholding and defending every day. A formal apology from the General Assembly affirms that commitment and signals to Black Marylanders that the State takes both the harms of the past and its obligations in the present seriously.

We also recognize the importance of this resolution emerging directly from the work of the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission, whose findings and 84 recommendations provide a rigorous evidentiary foundation for the State's acknowledgment of responsibility. The Commission's process reflects the kind of deliberate, community-rooted

accountability that is essential to genuine reconciliation. We encourage the General Assembly to carry that momentum forward by moving expeditiously to implement the Commission's recommendations.

We appreciate Senators Sydnor and Augustine's leadership on this resolution and welcome the opportunity to share our perspective. For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General respectfully urges the Committee to give Senate Joint Resolution 3 a favorable report.

Cc: Members of the Committee