

I testify today before the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee in support of the Apology and Acknowledgement of the State's Responsibility in Racial Terror Lynchings: Senate Joint Resolution 3.

My seven years of experience with the all-volunteer, county-wide, non-profit Prince George's County Lynching Memorial Project brings me to present this testimony. PGC LMP's Mission is to **educate** the public on the truths of our nation's continuing legacy of the institution of slavery and its impact on enslaved persons and their descendants, **memorialize** victims of racial terror lynchings in our county, and **advance** the cause of racial justice and reconciliation through mutual support and collaboration.

Our work brings me in contact with descendants of the victims of the county's four documented racial terror lynchings and of their neighbors. As a White person, I deeply believe apologies are necessary for our Mission to succeed. Meaningful apologies are good for our souls and for our relationships. They are necessary first steps, after which reparative actions must be taken to address the harms to those particular families and communities, and to move systemically toward justice and equality in all spheres of our public lives. These recommendations are impactfully presented in the in the Final Report of your Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Please support this very first step, the Apology and Acknowledgement of the State's Responsibility in Racial Terror Lynchings.

Remember your childhood: when you grabbed a toy from your sibling, your parents insisted that you apologize, right? But your "I'm sorry" was insufficient, correct? Then you had to return the toy! It is too late for the return of lost lives, relationships and property, but it is not too late to apologize and then to make concrete amends. Please support Senate Joint Resolution 3.

Sincerely,  
Rev. Diane Teichert  
Minister Emerita, Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church  
Co-chair, Prince George's County Lynching Memorial Project