

SJ 003/HJ 008: Apology and Acknowledgement of the State's Responsibility in Racial Terror Lynchings: Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Education, Energy & the Environment Committee and Rules and Executive Nominations Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **OPPOSE SJ 003/HJ 008** during committee consideration or floor votes.

SJ 003/HJ 008's language of "the State's responsibility" implies direct, institutional culpability in lynchings and racial terror acts. Attributing collective, institutional guilt to the modern State of Maryland for actions of private citizens or failures of prior eras unfairly stigmatizes current Maryland residents and institutions that had no part in those events.

Official state apologies for specific historical injustices should be reserved for clear, documented instances of state-sponsored or state-directed wrongs. Broadly declaring the State responsible for private racial terror acts opens the door to endless, selective resolutions that divide Marylanders along racial lines, rather than unite Marylanders.

This resolution does not advance concrete justice or education about history. It is symbolic, politically charged, and likely to be perceived by many as an attempt to assign inherited guilt rather than foster shared understanding or practical solutions to present-day challenges.

Maryland should focus on forward-looking policies that promote equality, opportunity, and safety for all residents—without symbolic gestures that inflame division and assign collective blame across generations.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote against SJ 003/HJ 008**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of my concerns regarding this historical and social policy matter.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals