



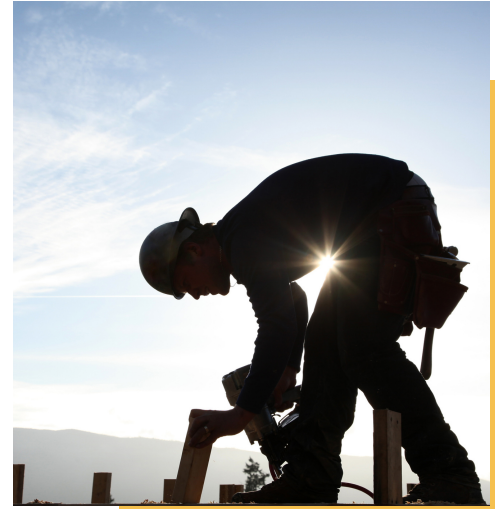
MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY ACT

HB840/ SB743

Sponsors: Del. Regina Boyce &
Sen. Michael Jackson

The Climate and Environmental Equity Act would provide the opportunity for further scrutiny of permits for projects that have a high climate impact and are proposed to be built in areas that already have a high burden of pollution and adverse health outcomes. It will enable the Maryland Department of the Environment to fully assess the health and environmental impacts of such projects on marginalized communities and prioritize these communities for additional public participation and protections.



For decades, Maryland agencies have allowed companies and others to build multiple major industrial projects without consideration of other projects nearby, which can result in a concentration of polluting facilities. More often than not, the high density of facilities is in or near low-wealth communities and communities of color.

PASSING THIS BILL WILL:

- Take concrete steps to address environmental racism and injustice in Maryland;
- Ensure that key state agencies in Maryland are held accountable for the state's climate, environmental justice, and labor goals;
- Require thorough planning, evaluation, reporting, and mitigation of negative impacts on underserved and overburdened communities before potential polluters are permitted to operate;
- Evaluate projects for their cumulative impacts on a community, how they contribute to or mitigate climate change, and how they impact workers, jobs, and property values;
- Foster measurable communication among stakeholders in the permitting process;
- Allow Marylanders to receive regular notifications regarding environmental permits that may have a negative impact on their health and well-being.

Implementation of the Climate & Environmental Equity Act would ensure that Maryland complies with EPA's new environmental justice principles* for permitting.

*<https://www.epa.gov/caa-permitting/ej-air-permitting-principles-addressing-environmental-justice-concerns-air>