

## Climate Labor and Environmental Equity Act

**Bill Sponsors: Senator Michael A. Jackson/Delegate Regina T. Boyce**

### Passing the Climate Labor and Environmental Equity Act will:

- 🌿 Prevent continued environmental racism and injustice in Maryland;
- 🌿 Ensure that key state agencies in Maryland are held accountable (through reporting) to 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 polluters are permitted to operate;
  - Projects will be evaluated 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 between the Maryland Department of the Environment, environmental permit applicants, and underserved and overburdened communities;
- 🌿 Allow Marylanders to receive regular notifications regarding environmental permits that may have a negative impact on their health and well-being;
- 🌿 Deter state decisions near overburdened and underserved communities, such as:
  - Approving new construction of harmful facilities or infrastructure;
  - Approving permits that allow for increases in greenhouse gas emissions;
  - Approving a new highway or highway expansion; and
  - Approving a project or development that won't benefit Maryland workers.

### Why the Climate Labor and Environmental Equity Act is needed:

- 🌿 For generations, the state of Maryland has made decisions about locating harmful, unhealthy, and potentially dangerous projects in ways that have overburdened many communities in the state, especially communities of color and low-income communities. This has damaged those communities and inhibited their residents from leading safe, healthy, and productive lives.
- 🌿 Implementation of the Climate Labor and Environmental Equity Act would ensure that Maryland complies with EPA's new [environmental justice principles for permitting](#).
- 🌿 The Maryland legislature has until April 10, 2023, to pass the Climate Labor and Environmental Equity Act. Maryland communities cannot wait any longer for these past-due considerations and protections.