



MARYLAND LEAGUE
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

March 31, 2021

SUPPORT HB1244: State Procurement – Concrete - Preference

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Maryland League of Conservation Voters

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Maryland League of Conservation Voters strongly supports HB1244: State Procurement – Concrete – Preference, and we thank Delegate Sample-Hughes for her leadership on this issue.

This year the Maryland General Assembly is considering the Climate Solutions Now Act, which sets the state on a path towards dramatically reducing our carbon emissions by the year 2030, and achieving net-zero emissions by 2045. That comprehensive legislation offers several important steps to achieve this ambitious but achievable goal, however it is critical that Maryland take every opportunity to cut our contribution to the global crisis of climate change, and HB1244 is a meaningful step towards this goal.

Cement contributes to 8% of greenhouse gases worldwide. The emissions are tied to the presence of “clinker,” which is a key component to traditional cement making, and emits the largest amount of CO₂ in the cement-making process. While the US is a relatively small part of the cement market, one of the nation’s largest producers has a plant in Hagerstown, Maryland – a plant which is leading the way in making alternatives that significantly reduce the carbon emissions of their product, through using an alternative to the carbon-heavy “clinker,” and by using more energy-efficient processes.

HB1244 offers the Maryland General Assembly the opportunity to put our state government in a position of leading the way for private companies by giving preference to these improved systems and products, which simultaneously achieves two critical goals: supporting a Maryland business that has shown important industry leadership, and reducing our carbon emissions. Moreover, this bill would also bring environmental and health benefits to local communities that host concrete manufacturing plants by supporting alternatives that reduce emission during the production cycle.

Finally, we would like to point out that host communities are not only overburdened by the harmful emissions released during the industrial process of producing concrete, but their residents also suffer from diesel emission, noise and public safety concerns associated with the heavy diesel trucks that serve concrete operations daily. While not a formal amendment, we urge the Maryland General Assembly to take these cumulative impacts into account to ensure that no community in Maryland is disproportionately impacted by pollution and other environmental harms.

Maryland LCV urges a favorable report on HB1244.