



Kim Coble  
Executive Director

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**SUPPORT with Amendments: HB1033**  
**Environment and Energy - Investment in Overburdened Communities**

Chair McIntosh, Chair Wilson, and Members of the Committees:

Maryland LCV supports HB 1033 with the offered sponsor amendments to clarify definitions within the bill. We thank Delegates Rosenberg and Stein for their leadership introducing this legislation.

HB1033 directs increased investment in communities who are overburdened by environmental hazards and are also low-income, defined as at least 50% of the population at or below the 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

The bill focuses at least 40% of new state spending on certain programs aligned with the federal Justice 40 plan to communities with high pollution burdens that are also low income, including green infrastructure, climate change, clean energy and energy efficiency, clean transportation, affordable and sustainable housing. The bill also provides a method for communities to petition to be included if the aforementioned definitions do not include them.

The definitions included in this bill represent months of collaboration among community, legal, research, and advocacy groups from across the state to consistently define the term “overburdened” for consistency across legislative proposals. Maryland LCV and our Chispa Program have been deeply engaged in this work, and strongly supports the application of these consensus definitions in legislation.

Maryland LCV strongly supports legislation that advances environmental justice principles. Importantly, HB 1033 allocates resources to communities that are both low income and are dealing with an excess of environmental pollution, health consequences, or lack of access to decision-making. We urge a favorable report on HB 1033.