



Mission: To improve public health in Maryland through education and advocacy Vision: Healthy Marylanders living in Healthy Communities

HB 1033 – Environment and Energy – Investment in Overburdened Communities

Hearing Date: 3/15/2022

Committee: Appropriations and Economic Matters

Position: SUPPORT

Chair McIntosh, Chair Wilson, and Members of the Committees: The Maryland Public Health Association would like to express support for HB 1033. This bill will direct investment in communities overburdened by environmental pollution who are also low-income.

In 2019, the American Public Health Association (APHA) published the policy statement, [Addressing Environmental Justice to Achieve Health Equity](#).

“Due to its disproportionate impact on health, environmental injustice is definitively a human rights issue as it impedes growth, stability, and the long-term well-being of families living in these underserved and marginalized neighborhoods in both rural and urban settings.”

HB 1033 embodies the federal Justice 40 initiative and directs at least 40% of new state spending on programs including green infrastructure, climate change, clean energy and energy efficiency, clean transportation, affordable and sustainable housing to communities overburdened by environmental pollution who are also low-income.

As a state, it is our duty to ensure the strongest protections and investments in communities who have historically had to bear the brunt of pollution and disinvestment because of systemic injustices and practices. Investing in environmental justice is investing in health equity.

Thank you for your consideration. We urge a favorable report on HB 1033.

The Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA) is a nonprofit, statewide organization of public health professionals dedicated to improving the lives of all Marylanders through education, advocacy, and collaboration. We support public policies consistent with our vision of healthy Marylanders living in healthy, equitable, communities. MdPHA is the state affiliate of the American Public Health Association, a nearly 145-year-old professional organization dedicated to improving population health and reducing the health disparities that plague our state and our nation.