

**Bill:** HB 596 – Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

**Committee:** House Environment and Transportation Committee

**Position:** Favorable

**Date:** February 23, 2022

Dear Chair Barve:

Like the moon and stars, we lack dominion over mother nature. Beyond affairs, organizations, businesses, and people we can vote into submission or appeal by verdict of adjudication, mother nature's authority is sovereign – established by creation – God himself. Intractably joined at the hip, we are intrinsically reliant on her sustenance – drinkable water, breathable air, and nourishing food. As from a mother's womb – our very source of life – over time we must evolve – weaning from the very cradle of existence – it has become our time – our responsibility, entrusted in generations yet born to maintain an environment conducive to life.

We are running out of time while mother nature, in her innocence, responds to stimuli – however man-made or cyclical – being no respecter of persons – cares less about who we are, but how we treat her.

Maryland's proposed Constitutional Environmental Human Rights Amendment supports our human ability to aggrandize mother nature's natural ability to support life. Host to this portion of earth, Maryland can establish legal protection – a vanguard against environmental injustice – and set further example for more states to follow. Egalitarian in principle, whereby both nature and living creation wins – ahead of increasing climate change, rising temperatures, and sea rise, I pray we not require that waters meet our front doorstep before acting. Inordinate burning of fossil fuels and toxic dump sites – among iterative decades of warning and abuse – may we resolve to fix this, not to pass on to our children.

Thank you,

Mayor Noah Waters

Town of Eagle Harbor Maryland