



Committee: Finance

Testimony on: SB023 - Equity in Transportation Sector-Guidelines & Analyses

Organization: MLC Climate Justice Wing

Submitting: Diana Younts, Co-Chair

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: January 26, 2022

Dear M. Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today. The MLC Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of over 50 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on SB023. This bill rectifies decades (really, centuries) of inequality in transportation access for black and brown communities by affirmatively requiring the State to make equity a primary goal in Maryland's Transportation Plan.

SB023 is necessary because although Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act was supposed to guarantee equal access to public transportation, Maryland has not enforced it at the state level. Examples of race-based inequity are ample: from the cancellation of the Red Line to the fact that the MTA service cuts in September 2020 placed the greatest burden on the routes servicing black communities, while there were no cuts in the airport or state highway administration and only minor temporary cuts proposed for the MARC commuter rail service with its 65-70% white ridership.

SB023 helps to fix these inequities by requiring a proactive and anticipatory approach to equity in transit and intermodal transit planning and by broadening participation by transit dependent communities in that planning.

It is time for Maryland to take this vital step forward in the fight against race-based transit policies. We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

MLC Climate Justice Wing:

Assateague Coastal Trust
Maryland Legislative Coalition
MD Campaign for Environmental Human Rights
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
WISE
Frack Free Frostburg
Mountain Maryland Movement

Howard County Sierra Club
Columbia Association Climate change and sustainability advisory committee
HoCo Climate Action
Howard County Indivisible
CHEER
Climate XChange - Maryland
Mid-Atlantic Field Representative/
National Parks Conservation Association
350 Montgomery County
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
The Climate Mobilization Montgomery County
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
Audubon Naturalist Society
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church
Environmental Justice Ministry
Coalition For Smarter Growth
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County
MCPS Clean Energy Campaign
MoCo DCC
Potomac Conservancy

Casa de Maryland
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
Clean Air Prince Georges
Laurel Resist
Greenbelt Climate Action Network
Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
Concerned Citizens Against Industrial Cafos
Wicomico NAACP
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
Chispa MD
Climate Law & Policy Project
Maryland Poor Peoples Campaign
Labor for Sustainability
The Nature Conservancy
Clean Air Prince Georges
350 Baltimore
Maryland Environmental Health Network
Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis
Talbot Rising
Adat Shalom Climate Action
Mid-Atlantic Earth Holders
Climate Parents of Prince Georges
Echotopia
Maryland NAACP State Conference,
Environmental Justice Committee