

To: All Maryland Legislators

From: Lawrence Ryan, Berlin, MD

Testimony advocating for HB0596

The Maryland Environmental Human Rights Amendment

Hearing 2/23/22 1pm

Through this constitutional amendment we seek justice and health for all who are being negatively impacted by the harm we are causing to the land, air and water resources. The businesses that provide us with the food we depend on have a special obligation to protect these resources for both immediate use and the use by generations to come. It is only common sense that we should protect how these resources are being used and promote “best practices” that will guide their use for the benefit of our posterity. Regulations currently exist to guide companies engaged in “for profit” production of food in ways that protect and sustain our commonly held resources. Companies that disregard these regulations must be held accountable for the misuse or degradation of our land, air and water so that the health of these resources **given by God** are sustained for our future. Equal resource access is best protected by the state. In the best interest of **ALL** Individuals and corporations who disdain State management, to achieve a sustainable future for these resources, they must be able to “self-regulate” their practices. Do they? OR, are shortcuts taken to help maximize profit?

Today I advocate for a favorable response to the proposed [Maryland Environmental Human Rights Amendment](#) that intends to provide a future guarantee so that **ALL will equally benefit** from clean air, water, good soil and a stable climate in our future. This bill is not intended to punish any sector of our community or economy or any commercial producer of our food. It is written so it will enhance our community and our economy, and ensure that these resources used for production will be available well into our future with the intent that all will be able to benefit from these gifts from our creator. For the well-being of our children and grandchildren I urge you to pass this proposed amendment to the Maryland Constitution so that all future Marylanders will be able to thrive.