



**Justice 40  
Letter of Support**

Delegate Deni Taveras  
6 Bladen St, Rm. 206,  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Taveras,

Thank you for your efforts to introduce the Justice 40 Act, legislation that aims to ensure that the fair share of at least 40% of federal funds allocated to the state of Maryland are directed to benefit underserved and overburdened communities, and low- to moderate-income households.

As a representative of EcoLatinos, an organization deeply rooted in the ethos of environmental and social justice, particularly for our Latino community, I am writing to express our strong endorsement of the Justice 40 Initiative. This bill represents a vital stride towards addressing the environmental challenges that disproportionately affect Spanish-speaking and under-resourced communities.

Our mission at EcoLatinos is to engage, educate, and activate Latino communities in the Chesapeake Bay and the Mid-Atlantic Region. We believe the Justice 40 Initiative aligns perfectly with our goals, as it ensures that 40% of federal climate funds are dedicated to disadvantaged communities, many of which are home to the very people we serve.

The inclusion of criteria such as a high poverty rate, non white majority, and limited English proficiency in defining disadvantaged communities is crucial. It acknowledges the unique challenges faced by many Latino communities and ensures that these groups are not overlooked in the distribution of climate funds.

We at EcoLatinos are committed to supporting non-profit, private, and public organizations in creating connections and empowering communities. The Justice 40 Initiative aligns with our vision of nurturing a powerful stewardship within our Latino community, making it a critical tool for environmental and social justice.

Sincerely,

*Ruby Stemmler*

Ruby Stemmler, CEO

ecoLatinos Nonprofit