



Values Of A Maryland Environmental Human Rights Amendment

- ❖ **The Need for a Fundamental Constitutional Environmental Right** - The Strongest Protection Provided by a State
 - In a state with siloed laws and lagging enforcement, a constitutional right would act as a true guardrail to prevent the most egregious forms of harmful state action now and for future generations.
 - A constitutional right, as opposed to a regular law, would ensure that environmental protection is the highest obligation of the government, and not just an aspirational goal that could be amended at any point in time.
- ❖ **A Healthier Place to Live** - Less Pollution Means Better Health
 - As a constitutional guardian of our natural resources, Maryland state officials would be:
 - (a) constitutionally obligated to protect the environment and its impact on the health of Marylanders, and
 - (b) legally prevented from permitting egregious harm to public natural resources that would violate the constitutional right.
 - Every person deserves the fundamental right to a healthy and healthful environment.
- ❖ **Greater Protections & Remedies for Communities** - Addressing Public Health Disparities
 - When making decisions on new projects, the state would be obligated to address heavily degraded, overburdened, or polluted areas across the state.
 - A MD Environmental Human Rights Amendment -- Green Amendment -- would empower all Marylanders, local communities and the state to enforce these fundamental rights.

"[C]limate change caused by increased greenhouse gas emissions poses severe threats to our environment and requires urgent governmental action... There is no such right [to a stable climate] in our State Constitution... These are solutions that must be effected through political branches of government, and not the judicial branch."

- Honorable Michael R. Scott, *King County Superior Court Judge*, Superior Court for the State of Washington For King County (Piper v. State of Washington)

- ❖ **A Backstop for Better Decision Making** - A Smarter Way Forward
 - This right would require state decision-makers to (a) consider the full extent of harm resulting from any given proposal and (b) consider whether a proposed project increases existing degradation - considering both individual and cumulative impacts of harm.
 - A MD Environmental Human Rights Amendment -- Green Amendment would provide backing for new laws that better protect the environment or the health of Marylanders.

Learn More & Stay Engaged at www.MDGreenAmendment.org