

We encourage you to SUPPORT:

HB 1042 (Herring) (Environment Justice, Virginia Council on; Established.)

- Assists to “protect [the Commonwealth’s] atmosphere, lands, and waters from pollution, impairment, or destruction, for the benefit, enjoyment, and general welfare of the people of the Commonwealth” in keeping with the Constitution of Virginia.
- Keeps Virginia among the leaders in the nation committing to environmental justice by advising the Governor and providing recommendations intended to protect vulnerable communities from disproportionate impacts of pollution and provide such communities meaningful involvement in the decision-making process
- Increases public safeguards. Everyone deserves to be free from discrimination by being protected from pollution. Unfortunately, all too often, environmental burdens disproportionately impact vulnerable populations, people of color, and low-income communities. Many studies have shown disproportionate burdens placed on low-income communities, communities of color, and indigenous communities, such as pollution, hazardous workplace conditions, industrial operations and a shortage of access to playgrounds, parks, nutritious foods, etc.
- Helps identify and lift barriers and increase participation. Ensure sustained communication between the state directly with marginalized communities, such as state or federally recognized tribes, and facilitate intra-agency and inter-agency collaboration.