

**Marylanders Speak to Governor Hogan  
October 4, 2017**



**Final Forum Report**

# Marylanders Speak to Governor Hogan

Report on a Community Forum

October 4, 2017

Richard Montgomery High School, Rockville, Maryland

## Executive Summary

In spring 2017, a group of 600 Marylanders reached out to Governor Hogan hoping to have a town hall meeting with him to learn where he stands on issues about which they care deeply. Because he declined the invitation, six citizen's groups -- DoTheMostGood MoCo, Indivisible All In, Indivisible Cabin John, Diversity Matters, Indivisible Montgomery and Takoma Park Mobilization -- organized a forum to allow Marylanders to explore and prioritize the issues about which they most want to hear from Governor Hogan.

The October 4, 2017 forum allowed the audience to hear from a panel of experts:

The panelists were: **Leni Preston, President, Consumer Health First; David Hornbeck, Co-founder, Strong Schools Maryland; Mike Tidwell, Founder and Director, Chesapeake Climate Action Network.** The panel was moderated by **Charly Carter, Executive Director, Maryland Working Families.**

The audience prioritized policy initiatives in the areas of health care, public education and the environment. The following were prioritized by audience vote:

**Health Care: Preserve Medicaid and CHIP.** Ensure that the 1,252,304 people in Maryland on Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) continue to have meaningful coverage: preserve current eligibility categories and requirements, and preserve current federal funding.

**Public Education: Support our youngest children.** Develop and implement comprehensive support for low-income moms from pregnancy onward to ensure that their kindergarteners have knowledge and skills comparable to those of their wealthier peers.

**Environment: Require 50% use of renewables by 2030.** Clean, renewable energy is a powerful driver of economic development in Maryland and reduces all forms of pollution and climate-changing emissions. Maryland's leaders should mandate a growth to 50% by 2030 of electricity from renewable sources.

**The citizens groups that organized this forum, the audience, and Marylanders in general welcome comments from Governor Hogan and other current and prospective state leaders on these and the other policy initiatives discussed at the forum.**

## Introduction

In spring 2017, a group of 600 Marylanders reached out to Governor Hogan hoping to have a town hall meeting with him to learn where he stands on issues about which they care deeply. Understanding that our governor has a demanding schedule and wasn't able to get such a meeting on his calendar, but recognizing the urgency of making these concerns known, six citizen's groups -- DoTheMostGood MoCo, Indivisible All In, Indivisible Cabin John, Diversity Matters, Indivisible Montgomery and Takoma Park Mobilization -- organized a forum to allow Marylanders to explore and prioritize the issues about which they most want to hear from Governor Hogan.

Over 400 people registered to participate and on the evening of October 4, 2017, 200 people gathered at Richard Montgomery High School in Rockville (with many others participating via social media), as a panel of policy experts outlined major issues relating to health care, the environment and public education. The event was not sponsored by, associated with, or endorsed by any political party, by the Montgomery County Public Schools or by the Montgomery County Government.

The panelists were: **Leni Preston, President, Consumer Health First; David Hornbeck, Co-founder, Strong Schools Maryland; Mike Tidwell, Founder and Director, Chesapeake Climate Action Network.** The panel was moderated by **Charly Carter, Executive Director, Maryland Working Families.**

Questions were submitted in advance on line and at the event. After each panelist spoke and outlined important policy initiatives on which state leadership is needed, participants prioritized the initiatives by online or paper ballot voting. (They could reject all of the initiatives as well, but none did.)

**This report outlines the results of the forum and calls upon the Governor to make his views and intentions known on these same policy initiatives.**

As Ms. Carter, noted, these are questions that must be asked, no matter what: no matter who holds leadership in the state and no matter with which political party he or she is affiliated.

Presented on the following pages, in the areas of Health Care, Public Education and the Environment, are background on the issues, policy initiatives offered by experts and presented in this report in the order in which they were prioritized by the audience, results of audience polling, and important issues in each area raised by the audience before or at the forum that could not be addressed due to time constraints but that also warrant consideration by state leaders.

## Health Care Policy Initiatives

### Governor Hogan and other state leaders:

*How do you plan to ensure that Marylanders continue to have access to high-quality, affordable and comprehensive health care?*

**Policy initiative selected as top priority by audience vote: Preserve Medicaid and CHIP.** Ensure that the 1,252,304 people in Maryland on Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) continue to have meaningful coverage: preserve current eligibility categories and requirements, and preserve current federal funding.

In Maryland, Medicaid and CHIP are critical programs that ensure access to high-quality, affordable, and comprehensive health care. Medicaid and CHIP provide free or low-cost health insurance coverage to almost 1 in 5 Marylanders. Of the approximately 1,252,300 Marylanders covered by Medicaid or CHIP, 592,836 are children and 136,709 are disabled, and 77,000 are seniors.

From 2013 to 2017, the uninsured rate in Maryland decreased from 11.3% to 6.1%. Due to the Medicaid expansion, which raised the eligibility level to 138% of the federal poverty level (FPL - \$33,948 for a family of four), 291,000 more Marylanders have insurance coverage. Worth noting is that almost 1 in 4 state residents are under 200% FPL.

Not only the repeal of the Medicaid expansion, but indeed any of the proposed changes to this safety net program would have a significant impact on individual coverage and serious financing implications for the state. Medicaid alone accounts for 24% of Maryland's budget with the spending for the program alone amounting to approximately \$11 billion. The federal government pays 61% of these costs, while the state is responsible for the remaining 39%.

### At the federal level, there are several threats to Medicaid and CHIP:

- Congress has proposed block-granting or per capita caps for Medicaid with decreases in funding or other restrictions on state allocation.
- Federal funding for CHIP expired on September 30, 2017 and without new legislative authority, coverage for approximately 142,326 children in Maryland could be imperiled.
- In order to address the budget shortfall, we could see consideration of a decrease in reimbursement rates that could lead to provider shortages.
- Under the Federal 1115 waiver process a number of states are considering putting in work, drug testing or other requirements.

## **What can Maryland do to maintain current coverage under Medicaid and CHIP? Governor Hogan needs to:**

- Work with Maryland's Congressional delegation to thwart efforts to undermine Medicaid.
- Maintain or expand eligibility levels through the use of state funds.
- Expand benefits to include dental benefits for adults beyond the current requirement for pregnant women.
- Work to secure reauthorization of CHIP.
- Ensure provider reimbursements are competitive and provider networks, including those for behavioral health, are adequate throughout the state.

**Policy initiative selected as next highest priority by audience vote: Stabilize the Affordable Care Act (ACA) individual insurance market.** Ensure that the 243,000 individuals who purchase their insurance in the individual market have affordable products to choose from. This will require that steps be taken to stabilize the market such as enforcement of the individual mandate; creation of a reinsurance program and the strengthening of the insurance rate review process.

The ACA has cut the uninsured rate in Maryland nearly in half to 6.1%. Insurance in the individual market covers medical costs for 243,000 Marylanders. However, actions by the Trump administration and the Republican-led Congress have created uncertainties that are reflected in the rate increases for 2018 plans. These actions include: introduction of ACA “repeal and replace” legislation, threats to withhold monthly Cost Sharing Reimbursement payments to insurance carriers, and equivocations about enforcement of the individual mandate. All of these have destabilized the individual market making affordable plans, particularly for those who do not receive a subsidy impossible to afford.

To date, Governor Hogan has expressed, in press releases, his concern about proposed changes to the ACA on Capitol Hill. However, he has not participated in bi-partisan efforts with other Governors to address such programs as reinsurance. Nor has his administration identified specific steps they would propose to stabilize the individual market. Examples of these include:

- A state-based reinsurance program to cover high cost enrollees
- A public option, for example, to open Medicaid to those above the ACA-eligibility level who cannot afford private insurance
- A Maryland individual mandate or state-enforcement of the federal mandate
- A stronger rate review process entailing greater accountability of insurance carriers for the lowering of costs for their high cost enrollees.

At the Federal level, we also see the Trump administration taking steps to weaken the ACA by discouraging enrollment. Fortunately, as a State-Based Exchange, Maryland has dedicated funding to the marketing and outreach efforts. However, more should be done by Governor Hogan, including:

- Providing more resources for Maryland's Connector Entities, whose budget has been decreased by half over the last four years.
- Encouraging a full analysis of this year's shortened enrollment period to determine if, in 2018, the state should do as others have (California, Massachusetts, Washington, Minnesota, and the District of Columbia) and extend the time period for enrollment in 2019 plans.

The Trump Administration's recent announcement of a plan to issue an executive order to allow insurance associations health plans that do not have to comply with patient protections required by the ACA only pose new threats. As Insurance Commissioners have pointed out in the past, they would have no regulatory power over these plans, which would leave Marylanders without an effective grievance and appeals process.

**Policy initiative selected as next highest priority by audience vote: Ensure mental health and substance use disorder services.** Ensure access to mental health and substance use disorder services in Maryland: effective law enforcement, increased treatment funding, improved crisis management.

Maryland is in a mental health and substance use disorder crisis. The data is clear:

- One-third of Maryland adults report having poor mental health.
- A new poll found that 41% of Maryland residents said that the escalating opioid epidemic has directly affected them or someone they know.
- Opioid related deaths have increased to 475 for the first quarter of 2017, an increase of 35% from those of last year.
- Over 2,000 deaths from alcohol and drug intoxication were reported in 2016, an increase of 66% from those of last year.
- Enrollment in opioid treatment programs doubled from 10,000 to 20,000 since 2014.
- An estimated 431 lives were saved in 2016 due to Medicaid-covered Naloxone.
- Only about one-seventh of the illicit drug users in Maryland receive needed treatment.

With all of that, resources for treatment are not keeping up with demand. And there are barriers to providers accepting insurance for substance abuse disorder services and barriers to coverage for such services.

**Governor Hogan needs to:**

- Fully enforce the Federal Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act (MHAEA). This law bars discrimination in the coverage of behavioral health treatment services in most public and private plans.
- Increase state funding for mental health and substance use disorder treatment: funds are needed to support evidence-based prevention and early interventions services for youth and young adults in schools and other community-based settings.

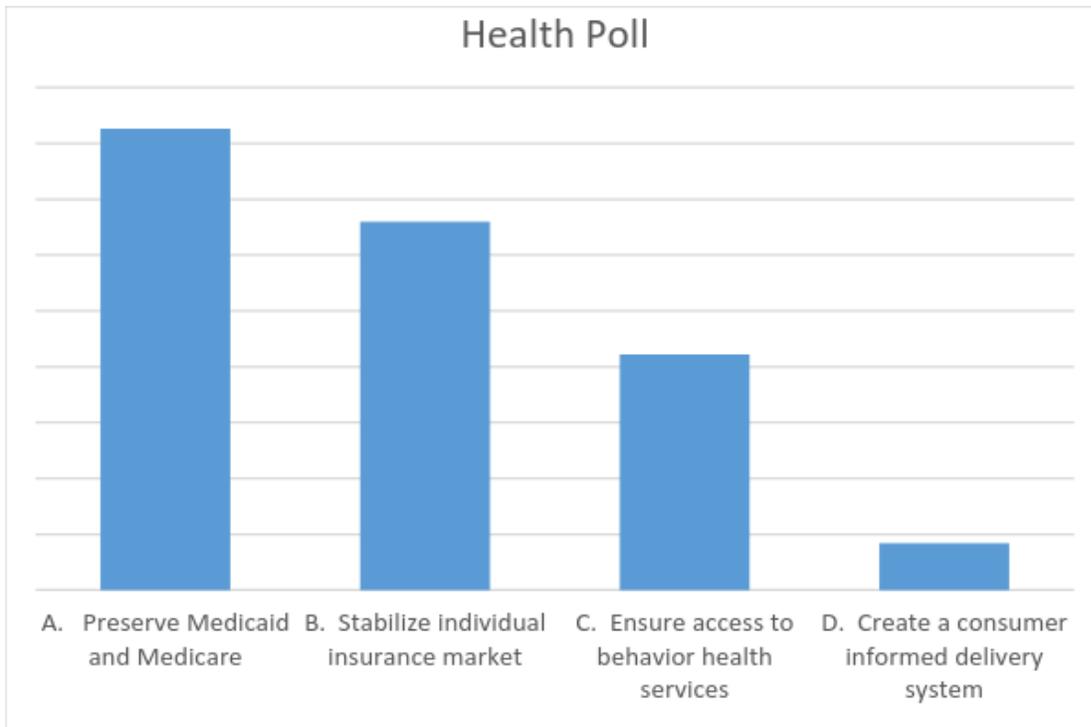
- Improve the behavioral health crisis system: the current piecemeal and jurisdictional system has created inequitable access to care that is particularly challenging for rural communities.
- Ensure there are no cuts to behavioral benefits in the Medicaid program: the Medicaid expansion has dramatically increased access to behavioral health services for lower income men and women.

**Policy initiative selected as next highest priority by audience vote:** Create a consumer-informed delivery system. Maryland's unique delivery system transformation, the All-Payer Model, has demonstrated its efficacy on a number of levels. Now, with the potential to see a new Enhanced Model and the programs to address public health it is more important than ever that consumers:

It has been said many times that health care is complicated. In Maryland's case, with multiple initiatives housed in different agencies, it becomes increasingly important that all of the "pieces" fit together like a "jigsaw" puzzle. This becomes increasingly challenging as more pieces are added and it requires that there be true accountability at all phases of implementation. Multiple stakeholders, including consumers/patients, hospitals/providers, insurance carriers and the local, the state, and federal government, are engaged in the implementation of the current contract with the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services. This has moved all Maryland hospitals to global payments designed to promote value over volume with better care, better health, and lower costs. Layered on this will now be the new Enhanced All-Payer and Primary Care Models. Central to the success of this "puzzle," with its emphasis on population health, with a commitment to primary care, shared decision-making, care management and coordination, will be informed and engaged consumers.

**Governor Hogan needs to support this new delivery system by:**

- Supporting the ACA and, specifically the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation.
- Developing a state-wide education and public awareness campaign.
- Supporting consumer participation at all levels in the design process and implementation of the delivery system transformation models.
- Ensuring that there are strong consumer protects and an accessible path for consumer complaints, grievances and appeals.
- Providing adequate funding for the safety net, which ensures access to care for vulnerable populations.



**Fig. 1. Results of OpaVote “Borda Ranking” of Policy Initiatives.** In this poll, 157 voters selected their 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice among the three policy initiatives in health care. (Not all members of the audience voted on each initiative.)

### Additional comments and questions

Additional comments and questions regarding health care were submitted prior to and during the forum. One key theme was that constituents want Governor Hogan to engage on federal issues, especially opposing the repeal and replacement of the ACA. Other comments touched on the following topics and indicated support for:

- Reducing the wait time for children and adults to receive Medicaid waiver services
- Acknowledging that gun safety is a public health issue and pass strong gun control legislation
- Reducing the cost of care, especially pharmaceuticals
- Assuring the availability of family planning services, funding of Planned Parenthood and coverage of abortion services
- Researching the feasibility of a single payer option
- Replacing Dr. Robert Moffit Chair of the Maryland Health Care Commission with someone who is not a critic of the ACA

## Public Education Policy Initiatives

### Governor Hogan and other state leaders:

*How will you embrace the responsibility for ensuring equitable education opportunities for all of Maryland's children by supporting a broad and deep agenda from birth through high school graduation and the funding necessary to its implementation? Will you support the Nine Building Blocks for a World Class Education currently being considered by the Kirwan Commission?*

### Why Maryland's leadership needs to address education: An Education Report Card

Based on National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) test scores:

- Maryland is the **only state** where average scores in math *and* reading at grades 4 *and* 8 decreased between 2013 and 2015.
- In terms of 2015 scores, Maryland ranks 23rd for student proficiency in math and reading.
- When students are compared nationally and there's adjustment for differences in student backgrounds, Maryland falls from 23rd to 37th among states.

Analyses of current funding levels relative to student need indicate that Maryland schools are underfunded by \$2.9 billion.

These results are simply unacceptable in one of the wealthiest states. Maryland can and must do better by its students.

**Policy initiative selected as top priority by audience vote: Support our youngest children.** Develop and implement comprehensive support for low-income moms from pregnancy onward to ensure that their kindergarteners have knowledge and skills comparable to those of their wealthier peers.

**The rationale for this initiative:** Waiting until low-income children enter school ignores the fact that 80% of the brain is developed by age 3 and 90% by age 4. A lack of support for low-income mothers during pregnancy and in the lives of their children before kindergarten has devastating effects on school readiness. For example, there is great disparity between low-income children and middle/upper class income children in the number of vocabulary words they bring to school, and disparity that handicaps low-income children in their oral language and literacy development.

These supports would help boost the achievement of Maryland's low-income children:

- Home visitation programs for all at-risk moms that continue during the first two years after their child's birth.
- Quality childcare for low-income children from six weeks through entry into prekindergarten.

- A Judy Center or Maryland Family Support Center in or near every elementary school where 40% or more of the students are eligible for free and reduced priced meals.
- Prekindergarten for all low-income three-year-old and for all four-year-old children.

**Policy Initiatives selected as next highest priority by audience vote: Achieve equity in Maryland’s funding & performance.** Embrace the nine building blocks for a world class education in front of the Kirwan Commission and the \$2.9+ billion dollars needed to implement it.

**The rationale for this initiative:** With 58% of Maryland schools considered in “concentrated poverty,” schools are underfunded by at least \$2.9 billion and only 4 out of 25 jurisdictions have adequate funding levels.

Maryland schools are threatened by inadequate levels of state funding that is inequitably distributed, and the prospect that inadequate federal support will be cut even more in the future.

The federal government supports education strategies that are grossly inadequate to meet the needs of Maryland’s children.

What should the state do to promote equity in school funding?

Maryland should develop and implement a formula that provides funds based on need and is tied to implementation by school districts of proven practices.

- Money should be distributed equitably across the state to neutralize the impact of wealth, blunting the accident of living in particular zip codes.
- A strong Kirwan Commission policy and fiscal plan should be embraced by the Governor and enacted by the legislature.

**Policy Initiative selected as next highest priority by audience vote: Develop postsecondary and workforce readiness programs.** Develop comprehensive postsecondary education programs that provide students with postsecondary and workforce readiness across the state to improve Maryland’s economy.

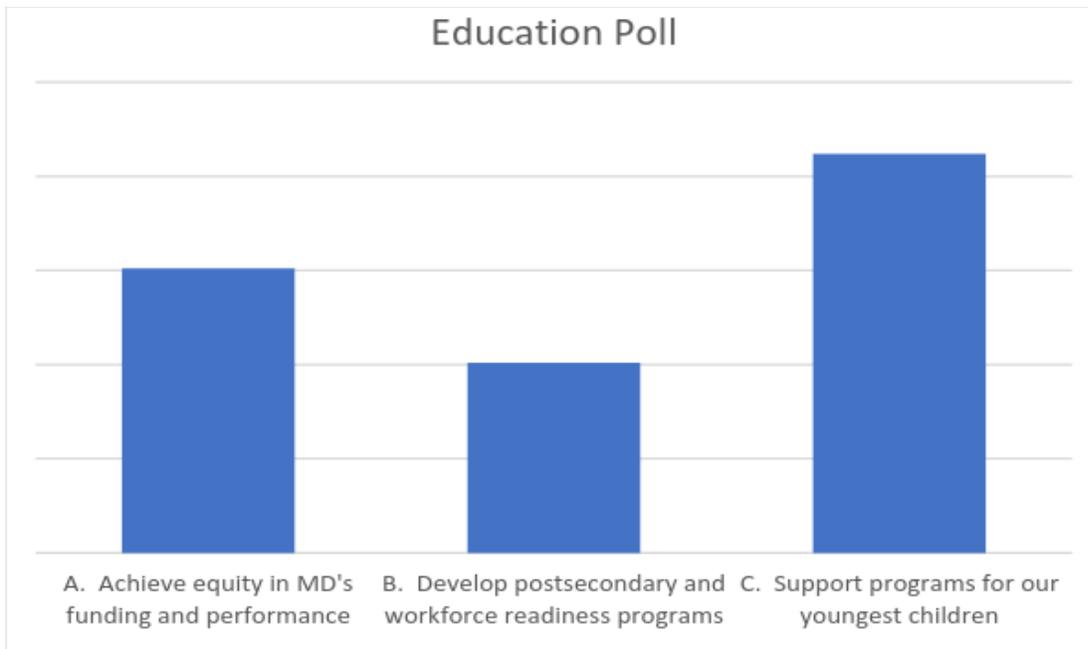
**The rationale for this initiative:** Vocational pathways for Maryland students are currently inadequate due to:

A lack of investment from nontraditional stakeholders in education, including the corporate and business communities.

- Cuts to funding for vocational programming relative to support for more traditional college readiness opportunities.
- A disconnect between educational preparation and vocational programs and available jobs.

The state needs to provide more adequate vocational pathways by delivering on the strong Kirwan Commission plan for a new vocational pipeline aligned to jobs that are satisfying and pay enough to support a family:

- More funding for vocational programming in high schools.
- More business involvement in decision making related to career preparedness programming.
- Incentive programs for students who select career tracks allowing them to stay and work in Maryland.
- Statewide the programs that are working in one or more locales.



**Fig. 2. Results of OpaVote “Borda Ranking” of Policy Initiatives.** In this poll, 157 voters selected their 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice among the three policy initiatives in public education. Not all members of the audience voted on each initiative.)

### Additional comments and questions:

Additional comments and questions regarding public education were submitted prior to and during the forum. These touched on the following topics and indicated support for:

- Public school funding, rather than funding of private and/or charter schools.
- Funding sufficient teaching positions rather than administrative positions.
- Upgraded public facilities, including air conditioning where needed.
- Modernized classrooms and teaching techniques including use of technology.
- Initiatives that meet design and evaluation standards of the U.S. Department of Education.
- Expanded early Head Start.
- Intensive reading programs for struggling third graders.
- Basic education for low-literate adults.
- Free community college for all.

## Environmental Policy Initiatives

### Governor Hogan and other state leaders:

*Maryland has long been a leader in recognizing that clean air and clean water are fundamental to its citizens' quality of life. Will you help us take these three specific, tangible steps to protect our environment to make a real difference in the lives of future generations of Marylanders and the well-being of the state as whole?*

**Policy initiative selected as top priority by audience vote: Require 50% use of renewables by 2030.** Clean, renewable energy is a powerful driver of economic development in Maryland and reduces all forms of pollution and climate-changing emissions. Maryland's leaders should mandate growth of electricity from renewable sources to 50% by 2030.

Most of Maryland's electricity still comes from fossil fuels—coal and natural gas. The harmful emissions from these sources hurt our health, our economy and our climate. We must act to transform our energy sector away from harmful fossil fuels and toward a clean energy economy. Maryland should double its Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) policy from the current goal of 25% renewable electricity by 2030 (adopted in 2016) to 50% renewable electricity by 2030, the carbon equivalent of taking 1.7 million cars off the road each year.

More clean, renewable electricity – like wind and solar energy – to power our homes and businesses will benefit our health, our economy, our climate and our communities.

Climate Change Benefits. Climate change is perhaps the greatest single threat facing Marylanders and all other Americans. Maryland has rejected climate denial and has already adopted policies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions; it is time for Governor Hogan to clearly state where he stands.

Climate change means more severe storms, increased flooding, more extreme heat and droughts other detrimental impacts. As a coastal state with over 3,000 miles of tidal shoreline, Maryland is one of the most vulnerable states in America to sea level rise.

Health Benefits. Doubling Maryland's renewable electricity goal will also significantly improve the state's air quality, preventing 290 premature deaths and over 3,000 asthma attacks per year.

Economic Benefits. Shifting to renewable fuels is good for the economy. Between 2015 and 2016, the solar industry grew 20 times faster than the state's overall state economy. Maryland's solar industry already boasts over 165 companies and employs over 5,000 residents. The wind industry is also beginning to thrive in Maryland - a typical 250-megawatt wind farm creates about 1,079 jobs over the lifetime of the project. Altogether, raising Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard to 50% by 2030 could support and retain nearly 20,000 jobs.

**Policy initiative selected as next highest priority by audience vote: Stop the proposed Potomac Pipeline.** The "Potomac Pipeline" would carry fracked gas through

Maryland, threatening the health of millions of people whose drinking water comes from the Potomac River. The pipeline should not be built.

Banning fracking in Maryland recently was the first step. Now we need to protect our rivers from fracked-gas pipelines. The “Eastern Panhandle Expansion Project” fracked-gas pipeline proposed by TransCanada, also called the “Potomac Pipeline,” would cross Western Maryland. This pipeline is bad for Maryland and for the environment for several important reasons.

First, TransCanada will need to drill horizontally under the Potomac River, the C&O Canal, and its tributaries through sensitive topography known as “karst” to build the pipeline. Karst is characterized by underground drainage systems with sinkholes and caves, and is easily susceptible to the transmission of pollutants through connected underground aquifers. This would allow easy migration of pollutants into aquifers that run into the Potomac River, threatening the drinking water for six million people in Maryland, the District of Columbia and Virginia who live downstream from the proposed construction area or who get their water from the Potomac River. The construction will also put hundreds of wells in the local area at risk.

In addition, TransCanada has a history of pipeline spills, and in 2016, spilled nearly 17,000 gallons of oil on rural land. A spill from the Potomac Pipeline during construction or operation would be an environmental disaster.

The Potomac Pipeline would also deepen the region’s dependence on fossil fuels, contributing to climate change. Fracking wells leak methane, which is approximately 86 times as potent a greenhouse gas pollutant as carbon dioxide.

Finally, the TransCanada application does not include adequate justification or evidence of a “need” for natural gas in the Eastern Panhandle. It will benefit only TransCanada, a foreign oil company, and create only temporary jobs for out-of-town workers.

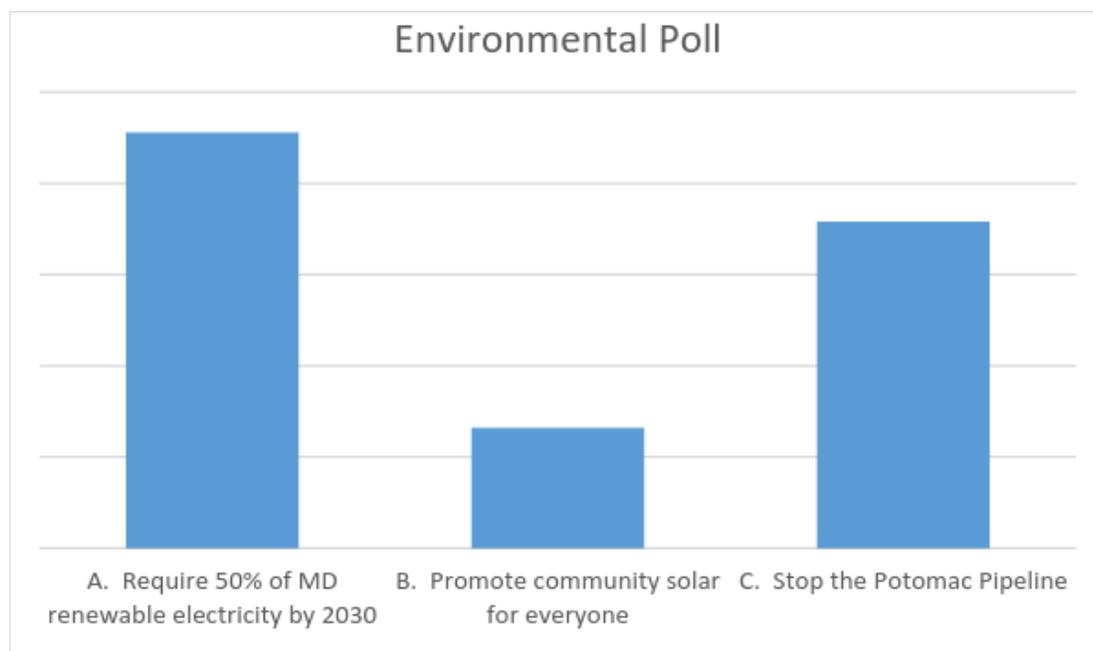
Governor Hogan has the ability to stop the pipeline. He can direct the Maryland Department of the Environment to reject the 401 Water Quality Certificate for this project under the Clean Water Act.

**Policy initiative selected as next highest priority by audience vote: Support expansion of the Community Solar Program.** Maryland’s community solar pilot program allows families to take advantage of the cost savings of solar without having to own their home or install equipment on their property. This program needs to be promoted, especially among lower income communities.

Across the U.S. and Maryland, solar power is booming as a source of clean energy, benefiting consumers, communities, and our climate. Solar energy not only reduces our carbon footprint and decreases air pollution, but is quickly overtaking fossil fuels as the leading job creator in the energy sector. There are now more than 260,000 solar jobs in the U.S, the solar industry has helped create one of every 50 new U.S. jobs added in 2016, and there are not more people working in solar than at oil rigs and in gas fields. More than 5,400 Marylanders are now employed by the solar industry.

Community solar programs allow customers that rent, have shady roofs, or are otherwise unable to install solar on their residences or commercial buildings to buy or subscribe to a portion of a shared solar system. Under Maryland’s community solar program, households can own or subscribe to a small share of a larger solar project that is sited in their community, but not on their property. The solar project delivers all the power it produces into the grid, and the local utility redistributes this power among its customers. The household then receives a credit on their monthly utility bill for the amount of electricity its share of the system produced (“virtual net-metering”).

Developers are just now getting started putting together community solar projects. The Maryland Public Service Commission released draft guidance for regulating the state’s new community solar pilot program in February 2016, and it was finalized in the spring of 2017. Maryland is hoping to install 200 megawatts of solar energy through this plan. Importantly, Maryland’s program sets aside 30% of the total project cap for solar installations that serve low- and moderate-income households. This commitment to making solar accessible to everyone is critical because only 1% of residential solar has been installed in Maryland communities where median household incomes are below \$40,000.



**Fig. 3. Results of OpaVote “Borda Ranking” of Policy Initiatives.** *In this poll, 157 voters selected their 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice among the three policy initiatives regarding the environment. Not all members of the audience voted on each initiative.)*

## **Additional comments and questions:**

Additional comments and questions regarding environmental protection were submitted prior to and during the forum. These touched on the following topics and indicated support for:

- Maryland joining the U.S. Climate Alliance.
- More aggressive efforts to reduce air pollution and reliance on fossil fuels, including but not limited to:
  - Adopting carbon pricing in Maryland, such as the “Put a Price on It” campaign in DC and a similar initiative in Massachusetts.
  - Moving toward 100% renewable energy to address climate change.
  - Promoting green buildings.
  - Increasing financial incentives for installing solar panels and using wind power.
  - Offering a tax incentive for Marylanders to purchase electric cars and supporting the electric car industry in Maryland by having more charging stations available.
  - Examining subsidies the state may be providing to energy corporations.
  - Divesting Maryland investments from fossil fuel industries.
  - Banning coal-generated electricity (a 2013 MIT study found that Maryland had the highest per capita rate of death from air pollution in the country).
- Requiring the Maryland Department of the Environment to require the six coal-fired power plants, such as the Dickerson plant, which are currently operating with expired permits and outdated pollution controls, to update their pollution controls to the EPA’s 2015 pollution standards and use Best Available Technologies to stop discharging toxic heavy metals into the Potomac and Patuxent Rivers and the Chesapeake Bay.
- Stopping efforts by Rep. Andy Harris to kill wind farms off the Eastern Shore and working actively to bring wind jobs to Maryland.
- Consideration of alternatives to the proposed I-270, I-495 and Baltimore-Washington Parkway expansions, which will hurt the environment.
- Addressing animal agriculture, which is a major cause of greenhouse gas emission and pollution. (Forest Conservation Act is a step in the right direction.)
- Aggressive statewide actions to mitigate the impacts of the proposed EPA rollback of the Clean Water Act.
- Reducing waste that goes into landfills, including recycling food waste for compost for homes or agricultural use and recycling tissues, paper towels, etc., and instituting a statewide ban on certain plastics, especially those that kill wildlife.
- Opposing offshore oil drilling, which could devastate tourism in Maryland, and offshore exploration using sonic technology known as “air pinging.”
- Protecting the Eastern Shore from the impacts of climate change.
- Preserving our wetlands.
- Full funding and staffing of environment-related agencies.

## **Conclusion**

At a time when Marylanders are feeling divided and worried, it is more critical than ever to hear from our leaders. Our great state has been at the forefront of so many important and positive changes in our country because of the courage and persistence of its legislators, its courts and its executives. Yet, right now, the residents of Maryland are not sure where Governor Hogan stands on many issues that affect their lives. The organizers of this event urge the Governor to respond in detail to the issues outlined in this report, especially those that participants identified as of highest priority to them. We propose that this happen in the form of a public forum, and we would be happy to organize such an event.

With appreciation for the production of this report by Olivia Bartlett (DoTheMostGood MoCo), Julie Greenberg (Indivisible All In), Lynda Honberg (DoTheMostGood MoCo), Martin Trocki (Indivisible Montgomery), Linda Reinisch (Indivisible Cabin John), and George Wyeth (Indivisible All In), this report is respectfully submitted by,

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