



March 2, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Senate Bill 889 - Controlled Hazardous Substance Facility Permit - Research Facilities - Chemical Warfare Material Requirements - FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 889. First, we would like to thank Senator J.B. Jennings for introducing this legislation that will ultimately benefit not only the State of Maryland but the United States as a whole.

Avon Protection is a publicly traded company that has served the United States warfighter for over twenty years. We are a world leader in respiratory and ballistic protection, delivering life critical solutions for Militaries and First Responders worldwide. One key area of focus for us is to develop products that protect the United States Department of Defense Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Special Operations Forces from the hazards of chemical and biological warfare agents. Our U.S. business headquarter is in Maryland close to our largest customer, the U.S. Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense (JPEO-CBRND) located at Aberdeen Proving Grounds.

Avon Protection supports this legislation as the bill will allow the Combat Capabilities Development Command's Chemical and Biological Center (CCDC CBC) to conduct critical research, development and demonstration of emerging technologies to protect our warfighters and first responders. As a defense contractor we recognize the critical mission CCDC CBC provides for both our warfighters and the U.S. homeland. CCDC CBC is also a critical research, development, test & evaluation (RDT&E) partner of JPEO-CBRND and its contractors such as Avon Protection. Part of that mission is to investigate new technologies to safely reduce or eliminate chemical and biological threats which SB 889 will allow them to investigate.

ADVANCE WITH CONFIDENCE

Avon Protection is committed to supporting the mission of Aberdeen Proving Ground and its tenant organizations as one of the nation's premier defense research and development centers. For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 889.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jill M. McClune". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jill M. McClune
General Counsel, U.S.

cc: Tom Albro, Chair of the Maryland Defense Research Coalition (MDRC)
Bryson Popham, Bryson F. Popham, P.A.
Joan Smith, Bryson F. Popham, P.A., MDRC Administrator