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March 4, 2024

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair
Education, Energy and Environment Committee

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair
Health and Government Operations Committee

Maryland General Assembly
State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: HB 1168 / SB 1028 – The Green Death Care Options Act

Dear Chair Feldman and Chair Pena-Melnyk:

I am writing to urge your committees for a favorable report on the Maryland Green Death Care Options Act.

I am a 68 year old faith-based environmental educator who cares deeply for the health and welfare of all life upon God's good Earth. I do not want the burial of my body to add poisons to the soil (e.g. embalming fluid) nor release more carbon (through fire cremation) into the atmosphere contributing to climate change. Supporting a viable option, I believe the opportunity to choose natural organic reduction and water cremation should not be withheld from Maryland families. Water cremation and NOR should be options for people who committed to a greener lifestyle before death because the environmental impact of conventional funerals is entirely avoidable with these better death care options. Now that so many other states have proven the science and reliability of these options, Maryland can join those who have already paved the way to a greener future by offering these green burial choices.

I ask you to support this legislation because it's the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Kolya Braun-Greiner, MDiv

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