

February 27, 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 1128 / SB 1068 – The Green Death Care Options Act**

Dear Chair Feldman and Char Pena-Melnyk:

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

From the perspective of someone who has handled local and long distance funeral arrangements, both traditional burials and cremations, at 67 I wish to have additional options for myself, those I leave behind and the environment. The 60 Minutes piece <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/human-composting-the-rising-interest-in-natural-burial/>, convinced me that natural organic reduction or water cremation would be my preference. I believe there is no reason that natural organic reduction and water cremation should be withheld from Maryland families. (I have been Montgomery County, Maryland resident for 32 years, since 1992.) 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 have no excuse for lagging behind.

Please step up to support this legislation because it's the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Name
City, State