

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1128
“The Green Death Care Options Act”

Health and Government Operations Committee
March 1, 2024

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Committee Member,

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of HB1128. My name is Dave Arndt, a resident of Baltimore MD, a Climate, Environmental and Social Justice advocate, a chemical engineer, a former Director for BP Solar in Frederick MD, a retiree of The National Institutes of Health and a co-lead of the Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing.

Talking about death options can be very difficult and traumatic. There are many of us that want better environmentally friendly arrangements for our bodies after we die. HB1128 provides another option here. There is no reason that natural organic reduction and water cremation should be withheld from my family or others who want a better environmental option. Many other states have proven the science and reliability of these options, Maryland has no excuse for not allowing this option.

Also, this bill gives us another alternative to cremation and could be the solution for our issues with having crematoriums in residential neighborhoods. Water cremation and NOR can be used instead, providing a win-win-win; for the family, the neighborhoods and the funeral homes.

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

Sincerely,

Dave Arndt.
Baltimore