

March 1, 2024

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

Maryland General Assembly  
State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB 1168 – The Green Death Care Options Act

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk:

I am writing on behalf of Green Legacy to urgently request your committees' favorable report on Maryland Green Death Care Options Act.

As a proponent of environmentally conscious practices, I firmly believe that denying Maryland families access to natural organic reduction (NOR) and water cremation is a disservice to those who wish to extend their commitment to a greener lifestyle beyond their time on Earth. The environmental impact of conventional funerals is entirely avoidable, and the implementation of these alternative death care options is crucial in mitigating this impact.

Numerous states have successfully embraced NOR and water cremation, proving both the science and reliability of these environmentally friendly alternatives. Therefore, Maryland has no justification for falling behind in adopting these progressive practices.

I implore you to take a stand in support of the Maryland Green Death Options Act. By endorsing this legislation, you not only contribute to the preservation of our environment but also empower individuals to make eco-conscious choices in their final moments.

Please recognize the urgency of this matter and commit to championing a greener, more sustainable future for Maryland.

Sincerely,

Denson Terry Jr.

Columbia, Maryland