

Dear Committee members,

I would like for Maryland to legalize natural organic options for death care. Natural organic reduction is now legal in Washington, Colorado, California, Vermont, New York, and Nevada, and I believe strongly Marylanders should have this legal right too. I have tried to minimize my negative impact on our environment in my life and would like to have the option as well in death.

Cremation and embalming and traditional funeral practices have a profound impact on the environment in energy use, chemical use, large caskets and more. Every year in the U.S. caskets use four million acres of forest. I would like to have the freedom for myself and others to legally return my body to the earth in as natural a way as possible, please give us that choice.

Thank you, Elizabeth L. Egeli