

February 29, 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 1168 – The Green Death Care Options Act**

Dear Chair Feldman and Char Pena-Melnyk:

My name is Sandy Huffer. I live in Annapolis and I urge your committees for a favorable report on the Maryland Green Death Care Options Act.

I spend most of my leisure time enjoying the outdoors, living a life that values sustainability and wish to have a death care option at the end of my life that does not harm the environment. The Green Death Care Options Act provides me that choice and I believe there is no reason that Natural Organic Reduction (NOR) and water cremation should be withheld from Maryland families.

Water cremation and NOR should be options for people who committed to a greener lifestyle before death due to the detrimental environmental impact of conventional funerals that is entirely avoidable with these better death care options. Nearly 2/3rds of Americans express an interest in green burial options, indicating a need for sustainable and more affordable alternatives. The Maryland funeral industry has been very engaged in this legislation and supports these alternatives which provides the opportunity for existing businesses to expand their scope of services.

Many other states have proven the science and reliability of these options and have approved their use. It is time for Maryland to stop denying families these eco-friendly alternatives. Please support this legislation because it's the right thing to do and will have zero-fiscal impact.

Sincerely,

Sandy Huffer
Annapolis, MD