

**CRAIG J. ZUCKER**  
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Budget and Taxation Committee  
Chair, Capital Budget Subcommittee

Chair, Senate Democratic Caucus

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

**Testimony of Senator Craig J. Zucker**  
**Senate Bill 764/House Bill 411 - State Designations - State Mineral - Chromite**  
**(State Mineral Act)**  
**April 1st, 2025**  
**1:00pm**  
**Position: Favorable**

Good afternoon, Chair Peña- Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and distinguished members of the Health and Government Operations Committee. It is my pleasure to testify today in support of Senate Bill 764- State Designations - State Mineral - Chromite (State Mineral Act). Senate Bill 764 is in the same posture as the cross-file, House Bill 411, and both bills passed their respective chambers unanimously. I would like to thank Delegate Korman for his leadership on House Bill 411.

This bill would designate chromite as Maryland's official State Mineral. The idea for this legislation was first brought to me in 2017 by David Shore, a Montgomery County native, who at the time was just 10 years old. Now, several years later, David joined for the Senate and House hearings in March, demonstrating his continued passion for Maryland's rich geological history. I am proud to support this initiative and his dedication to seeing it through.

The Maryland Archives have an established set of criteria that all proposed state symbols must meet. These criteria include: historical significance, uniqueness, relevance to Maryland history and universal acceptance of being representative of Maryland culture and tradition. With that being said our state proudly claims the first discovery of chromite in the United States when Isaac Tyson, Jr. identified the mineral in Bare Hills, Baltimore County, in 1808.

For much of the 19th century, Maryland stood as the world's leading source of chromite, with substantial deposits found across Baltimore, Harford, Cecil, and Carroll counties, as well as at Soldier's Delight. This rich heritage continues to be commemorated locally through names such as Chrome Hill and Chromine Road. Designating chromite as our state mineral would not only honor this legacy but also create valuable educational opportunities to highlight the significance of Maryland's natural resources and their role in our history.

I respectfully request a **favorable report on Senate Bill 764**. Thank you for your consideration.