

FROM: Deb Harris
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RE: HB0596: Constitutional Amendment – Environmental Rights

I've lived in Harford County for almost 30 years. I live next to farm land where corn and soybeans are planted. Roundup is used on the crops.

In 2009 I was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (NHL). My oncologist said NHL was prevalent in the area and he believed it had something to do with the ground water and recommended we filter our well water before drinking or cooking with it. Then in 2015 my husband was diagnosed with Glioblastoma Multiform (GBM); a brain tumor. He died in 2016. We've had multiple pets, numerous cats and a dog. All have died with some form of cancer. And I know we're the lucky ones. Those who live in areas where air pollution is high suffer from numerous health conditions.

The Environmental Human Rights Amendment would bring more awareness to what we are doing with the environment and ultimately the quality of our lives. Don't Marylanders have a right to a safe place to live and work? A clean environment would benefit all Marylanders. It would also increase productivity and, in time, save costs of dealing with health issues due to an unhealthy environment. If HB0596 is passed, Marylanders will get to vote on whether or not they want this right or not. We deserve that chance to decide.

Thank you for your vote!