

**Testimony Supporting HB0161**  
**Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**  
**March 23, 2023**

**Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

The undersigned organizations urge a favorable report on HB161, the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority Sunset Act, sponsored by Delegates Korman and Szeliga. This legislation tasks the Department of Legislative Services with conducting an evaluation of the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority, a basic good-government step recommended for all such quasi-governmental agencies by the State Transparency and Accountability Review Commission in 2021. Since much of the work done by the Waste Disposal Authority is duplicative of the work done by the Maryland Environmental Service, it makes sense for the state to evaluate the Waste Disposal Authority and carefully consider what are the right steps for its future. After the Department of Legislative Services conducts the evaluation requested in this bill, it will return a report to the legislature in December 2024, and any implementation steps will be for the legislature to consider in 2025 or later; this bill will simply give the legislature the necessary information and tools to make well-founded decisions. We urge you to support HB161 so that you will be equipped with this information in the future.

Sincerely,

**Clean Water Action**, Emily Ranson, Maryland Director

**Common Cause Maryland**, Casey Hunter, Outreach & Engagement Coordinator

**Maryland Legislative Coalition**, Cecilia Plante, Co-Chair

**Environmental Justice Ministry, Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church**, Nanci Wilkins,  
EJM team

**Chesapeake Earth Holders**, David Steigerwald, Maryland Legislative Lead

**Echotopia LLC**, Diane Wittner, Principal

**Montgomery Countryside Alliance**, Caroline Taylor, Executive Director

**Indivisible Howard County**, Crystal Konny, Member

**Baltimore Phil Berrigan Memorial Chapter Veterans For Peace**, Ellen E Barfield, VFP Chapter  
Co-founder and Coordinator

**Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland**, Phil Webster, Lead Advocate, Climate  
Change

**HoCo Climate Action**, Liz Feighner, Steering Committee

**Elders Climate Action Maryland**, Frances Stewart, Chapter Co-leader

**Sustainable Hyattsville**, Greg Smith, Board Member

**Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group**, Tom Taylor, Co-Chair

**Zero Waste Montgomery County**, Susan Eisendrath, Volunteer

**Regenerative Solutions**, Daniela Ochoa Gonzalez, self-proprietor

**Envision Frederick County**, Karen Cannon, Executive Director

**Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility**, Gwen L. DuBois, President

**Sugarloaf Citizens' Association**, Steven Findlay, President