



WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

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March 14, 2023

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Attn: Hon. Senator / Chairman Brian J. Feldman

2 West

Miller Senate Office Building

Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: MD 2023 SB 916 Environment – Ethylene Oxide - Prohibition

Senator / Chairman Feldman & Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee Members,

I respectfully write this letter of opposition for this bill which would prohibit the use of ethylene oxide as well as levy burdensome fines.

Ethylene oxide is used to sterilize medical equipment used extensively in hospitals and surgery centers throughout Maryland and the United States. The EPA has said that an abrupt ban could have an immediate disruption in sterilizer operations and cause significant shortages of various medical devices needed by patients and the Maryland and U.S. healthcare system.

Trinity Sterile, located in Wicomico County, currently employs 120 people with plans to increase employment to 180 people by the end of the year. Passage of this bill could eliminate these jobs and Wicomico and our region could lose millions of dollars in economic impact almost immediately.

Understanding the concerns of the use of ethylene oxide, this bill offers no alternative solutions. What could be done instead is for the industry to continue working with government regulators toward strengthened controls and processes to reduce emissions and thus, mitigate the potential devastating effects this bill would have on employers, employees and patients throughout local the healthcare system

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the committee for an unfavorable report for MD 2023 SB 916 Environment – Ethylene Oxide - Prohibition.

Respectfully,

Wicomico County, Maryland


Julie M. Giordano
County Executive