



TRINITY STERILE

A Minority Business Enterprise

03/02/2023

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,

Please accept this as a letter of opposition for MD 2023 SB 916 Environment – Ethylene Oxide – Prohibition.

We respectfully write to the committee today asking it to oppose this proposed legislation of outright banning the use of ethylene oxide, and levying extreme fines on employers that use this compound. This bill seems heavy handed and offers no other solutions for employers that use ethylene oxide.

This compound is used to disinfect medical equipment in hospitals, it has been reported about half of the medical devices in the country are sterilized using ethylene oxide. The EPA has said that an abrupt stopping the use of this compound would have an immediate disruption in sterilizer operations.

Here in the state of Maryland there are three businesses located in Howard, Anne Arundel, and Wicomico County that use this compound to sterilize medical equipment. Trinity Sterile, which is in Wicomico County, currently employs 120 people and is looking to increase employment to 180 people by the end of the year. If this bill were to pass the negative economic impact this would have on Wicomico County and the surrounding region would be significant.

While we understand the concerns of the use of ethylene oxide, we hope the committee and its members understand what outright banning the use of this compound especially with offering no alternative solutions will do to the supply chain of sterilizing hospital equipment in the state, and the major economic, and health impact this would cause. Perhaps what should be done instead is a study of alternative solutions to replace the use of ethylene oxide and work to implement those changes gradually over time thus mitigating the disruptions this bill would most certainly cause.

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

Sincerely,

Abrar Solatch

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President

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