

REGINA T. BOYCE
Legislative District 43A
Baltimore City

CHIEF DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Environment and
Transportation Committee

Subcommittees

Housing and Real Property

Chair

Natural Resources, Agriculture
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair
Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: **HB 1060 – Cremation – Natural Organic Reduction – Regulation: SUPPORT FWA**

Dear Chair Griffith:

I am in support of **HB 1060 – Cremation – Natural Organic Reduction – Regulation** that would give funeral consumers in Maryland the option of natural organic reduction for the final disposition of their loved ones.

The funerary options available in Maryland have been unchanged since embalming became widely available as a result of the Civil War. Some of the chemicals typically used for embalming are toxic and known to be carcinogens. Meanwhile, over the past 20 years or so, more and more of Marylanders are choosing cremation which, according to varying opinions, has environmental impacts.

By all accounts, natural organic reduction does not involve chemicals or smokestack emissions, and equally important, some Marylanders would like another option of service for themselves or loved ones to include that of natural organic reduction.

You may be aware that I have sponsored a study bill that complements HB 1060; specifically, **HB 869 - Department of the Environment - Study on Deathcare and Funeral Practices**. Please note that the purpose of my bill is to establish an empirical baseline of the environmental and health impacts associated with various deathcare and funeral practices including natural organic reduction. HB869 is a complement to HB1060 and elevates this topic of discussion.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on HB1060. I also ask for your favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Regina T. Boyce".

Delegate Regina T. Boyce
District 43A