

March 28, 2023

The Honorable Melony G. Griffith, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 East Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

HB 1060

**RE: HB 1060 – Cremation - Natural Organic Reduction
Regulation: Support - Favorable with Amendments**

Dear Chair Griffith:

I write to you to urge your favorable report on HB 1060 – Cremation – Natural Organic Reduction. As a resident of Dorchester County, I am increasingly concerned with the rising cremation rate in Maryland, which both uses fossil fuels and releases carbon dioxide into our atmosphere. The cremation rate in Maryland is projected to reach 75% by the year 2040. Currently, more than half of the 50,000 residents who die in Maryland each year choose fire cremation – for each Maryland cremation, more than 500 pounds of carbon is released into the atmosphere that our children breathe. We must legalize greener end-of-life options like Natural Organic Reduction. Natural Organic Reduction is a safe alternative with years of research behind it. I work hard to live sustainably, and I believe I should have the choice to die sustainably too.

Please vote YES on HB 1060.

Thank you,

Catherine Bye
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