

Hello Senators,

I am asking all of you to vote Yes on HB 1060 for Natural Organic Reduction (NOR).

I'm a lifelong Marylander, Anne Arundel County resident, Board member of the Green Burial Association of Maryland, and Owner of the Natural Burial funeral supply company - Reside Burials.

In my work and research I've talked to countless individuals about their final wishes, and it is clear that people want greener funeral options. I work in Natural Burial which I believe is a beautiful option for someone seeking an environmentally friendly funeral. However, Maryland is projected to have a cremation of 75% by 2040 - for each fire cremation, half a metric ton of carbon is released into our atmosphere. Many people seek cremation because it's a "greener" alternative to the "traditional American burial," and these people may become interested in Natural Burial when introduced to the idea, but many choose cremation for other socio-cultural or ideological reasons which Natural Burial will not satisfy.

NOR is safe and far greener than our current options (which haven't been updated since the Civil War!). This is not about ending any current practices; it's about adding a new one. It's about letting families grieve in a way that's meaningful to them and that honors their loved one.

I like to think about it this way: If grandpa passed away and was an avid UMD college football fan - would you bury him in a Penn State themed casket? No. To him that would be dishonorable.

To people who spend their lives trying to make a meaningful and positive impact on the earth, wouldn't we want to honor their passing in a way that aligned with their life?

I hope that you will come together to pass this bill - and give families this option to honor their deceased in a way that is meaningful to them.

Thank you,  
Carrie Shipton