

Green Legacy Brands LLC

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HB 869

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

**RE: HB 869 -Department of the Environment - Study on Deathcare
and Funeral Practices / FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Griffith:

Please register our unqualified support for HB 869 – Department of the Environment – Study on Deathcare and Funeral Practices.

After working in Maryland for nearly a decade as a licensed mortician and funeral director, I share deep concerns about the environmental consequences – as well as the potential opportunities – associated with prevailing funeral practices. We know that some chemicals used for embalming are toxic and that conventional cremations emit greenhouse gasses. It also is clear that alkaline hydrolysis, natural organic reduction and other emerging funeral practices offer the hope of better environmental results in the future. What our industry does not have is a good roadmap to inform the best route for achieving a positive environmental outcome.

Recently, I co-founded Green Legacy to become Maryland’s first green funeral home devoted exclusively to providing eco-friendly funeral options. Once our facilities are fully-licensed, Green Legacy can offer funeral services that are kinder to the Earth and gentler for families left behind after a loved one dies.

The empirical research promised by HB 869 would offer very useful signposts to help policy-makers, deathcare providers like Green Legacy and, most importantly, Maryland funeral consumers all make better choices.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the committee’s deliberation and we urge your favorable report.

Sincerely,

Lily Buerkle
Green Legacy, Co-Founder