

HB 1060

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

To the Finance Committee and Bill Sponsor Delegate Anne Kaiser:

I am writing to express my hope that you will support HB 1060 Cremations – Natural Organic Reduction – Regulation. Natural organic reduction (also known as human composting) is now legal in six states: Washington, Colorado, Oregon, California, Vermont, and New York and I want to help make Maryland the seventh state on this list.

My extended family has been in the traditional funeral service industry since 1970. It's not *quite* Six Feet Under, but as far as a family business goes, it's pretty darn close. They all but live above the shop. I respect and honor the cultural traditions they help honor and the transitions they facilitate—and those should remain options for those who feel drawn to them. But the chemical, carbon, and energy impact of that industry as it exists today is literally unsustainable. We need other choices—and in Maryland, we make them every day: we go out of our way to separate and recycle, invest in fully electric cars, add solar panels to our homes and businesses, incorporate rain barrels into our gardens, and walk and bike whenever and wherever we can...and more. We are an educated, aware, and sensitive population, thriving and caring for our environment while we are alive—and we are eager to have equally as sensitive and sustainable options when we die.

The success of this bill in the Maryland House is encouraging. Your support of this bill now will give us—your constituents—those choices we need in our final transitions. Please support this legislation. By doing so, you will help define Maryland's inclusive, sensitive, and sustainable position on natural organic reduction.

Please vote yes on HB 1060.

Thank you for your attention to this legislation.

Respectfully,

Mike Heffner