



HB1060 – Cremations - Natural Organic Reduction - Regulation

Testimony before

Senate Finance Committee

March 29, 2023

Position: Favorable

Mdm. Chair, Mdm. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Richard Deutschmann, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in support of HB1060, to adopt new regulations for safe, environmentally friendly end of life options. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We appreciate the leadership of Del. Kaiser for sponsoring this important legislation.

Cremation of human bodies has become the most popular end-of-life choice for Americans, and for many around the planet. Unfortunately, this process uses fossil fuels, and emits millions of metric tons of CO₂ into the air, one of the principal contributors to global climate change. Burial of human bodies collectively uses enormous amounts of concrete and steel, while also taking up precious land space in our towns and cities. Many of us, including our immediate family and numerous friends, are looking for a more environmentally benign choice for our end-of-life protocol. Natural organic reduction is one such method, and has now been approved for use in 6 states including California and New York. Each time a family chooses to use this method for their loved one, it saves more than 2,000 lbs. of carbon from entering the air. And provides both air quality and land use benefits as well.

This bill simply directs the state agency overseeing the Morticians and Funeral Directors to establish new regulations for those that would choose this method of end-of-life protocol, for themselves or for their loved ones. For these reasons, we strongly support HB1060.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable committee report.

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