

**Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair**

**Written Testimony – OPPOSITION - Senate Bill 936  
Environment – Wood Vaults –  
Authorization and Permit Requirements**

**Mr. Paul Edwards, Chairman  
Board of Garrett County Commissioners  
March 5, 2024**

On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners for Garrett County, I wish to offer our **OPPOSITION** For SB 936 – Environment – Wood Vaults – Authorization and Permit Requirements.

Garrett County Government supports wood-fired BIOMASS, which we feel would be an alternative fuel source that would reduce carbon emissions. We also believe that there could be an economic development benefit supporting our region’s forestry industry through implementation of BIOMASS technologies and support infrastructure, including manufacturing, transportation, and storage facilities including wood vaults.

The recent closure of VERSO and pending closure of Allegheny Wood Products, has and will have a negative impact on the Garrett County forestry industry. SB 936 would hinder future operations and small businesses by adding more burden to an already stressed forestry industry.

Garrett County strongly opposes Senate Bill 936 and urges the Committee to give a **UNFAVORABLE** report. Thank you for your time and consideration in this very important matter. Please let me know if you have any questions or need further information.