

Testimony in support of SB 893,

Siting requirements for Crematories

Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

Citizens along the York Road corridor have been trying to have their concerns about air quality in their neighborhood heard for three years. Because of environmental concerns, the York Road Partnership and other parties have been opposing a crematory proposed by the Vaughn Greene Funeral Home. No matter what it's called, a crematory is an incinerator. Aware of the dangers posed by existing incinerators, the Baltimore City Council has passed a law prohibiting the use of new incinerators within the city limits. Nevertheless, the zoning board granted permission claiming that a crematory is not an incinerator.

The community appealed this decision to the Circuit Court and failed. It seems that both the zoning board and the Circuit Court have made the absurd argument that because the community surrounding Vaughn Greene is already subject to air pollution a little more won't hurt. Tell that to Cindy Camp, one of the residents involved, whose grandchild suffers from asthma, as do a large number of other children who live in the surrounding community, part of the "Black Butterfly."

Because of this lack of concern for the health of citizens of Baltimore, I urge the committee to support SB 893 which will prohibit new crematoriums within 1000 feet of homes.

Carol A Rice

406 Northway

Baltimore, MD 21218