

February 23rd, 2024

TO: Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

HEARING DATE: February 27th, 2024

BILL: SB 893

TITLE: Environment – Siting Requirements for Crematories and Crematory Incinerators – Areas III and IV

POSITION: SUPPORT

As student interns at Loyola University Maryland's Center for Community, Service, and Justice, we aim to create a more just and equitable world through service, education, and programming. We believe this process starts with listening to the needs of the community that surrounds our school. For context, we are located along the York Road corridor, one of the starkest racial dividing lines in the region. As we became aware of the York Road Partnership's concerns with the proposed construction of a crematorium along the York Road Corridor in recent years, we became heavily invested in crematory policy.

We have seen the power of community firsthand as our institution has worked with our neighbors to attract investment to the corridor and supported local business and initiatives, and we share their concerns about adding an incinerator near the schools, residences, and care facilities of a densely-populated, majority-Black community that already suffers from air pollution and increased rates of asthma, COPD, and cardiac disease. We stand in solidarity with our neighbors and believe that clean air is a right.

We know that our community is not the only community like this in the state of Maryland and are therefore writing in support of Senate Bill 893. Given the largely unknown effects of inhaling toxins like those released from crematories on a daily basis, we believe that these regulations have the potential to save lives and allow our communities to thrive.



Tim Schluth



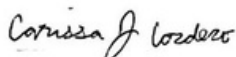
Sofia Karras



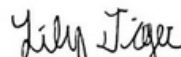
Vera Pavlovich




Andrew Haye



Carissa Cordero



Lily Tiger




Kendyl Archer



Hanna Addis



Olivia Casey



Jace Blehar



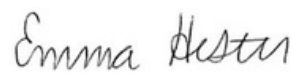
Nosa Omoregbee



Maeve Walsh



Matthew Pawlow



Emma Hester



Delaney Meller



Will Sears