



COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY
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DAVID MARKS
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March 4, 2024

The Honorable Elizabeth Embry
Maryland House of Delegates
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Dear Delegate Embry,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1374, which would establish distance requirements for cremation facilities and similar establishments.

Over the past two years, I have become very familiar with controversies regarding the placement of funeral homes and cremation facilities. In particular, a funeral home and crematorium have been proposed for an area along the Philadelphia Road corridor that has numerous residential communities and businesses, including restaurants with outdoor dining. It is clear to me that sufficient statewide standards do not exist for the placement of these facilities.

Numerous states have enacted more rigid standards than Maryland, and given the increasingly popularity of cremation services, I believe it is important for the General Assembly to outline in clear terms specific distance requirements. In 1958, less than four percent of Americans were cremated; the Cremation Association of North America estimates that over 50 percent chose this option by 2018. That number will continue to grow.

Last year, the Baltimore County Council adopted Resolution 25-23, which requests statewide distance standards for these businesses. Thank you for your support of this legislation.

Sincerely:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Marks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David Marks
Baltimore County Councilman