

Brandywine/TB, Southern Region Neighborhood Coalition

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL SB0160
Labor and Employment – Payment of Minimum Wage – Tipped Employees
Before Senate Finance Committee, February 1, 2024

Oral Testimony

TO: Chair, Delegate Marc Korman, and Vice Chair, Delegate Regina T. Boyce

FROM: Brandywine TB Southern Region Neighborhood Coalition (BTB Coalition)

POSITION: Unfavorable

Kamita Gray, the President of the BTB Coalition a place-based organization.

Climate Change has nothing to do with long standing decisions about the environment and land-use injustices, these inequalities are the direct cause of unequal, unfair, and inappropriate land-uses in permitting over the past several decades which have exacerbated the challenges that affected residents. This disinvestment, racial inequities and failed legislation and policy strategies imposed from outside the local affected community have left local communities with intersecting environmental crises. Environmental Justice is conceptualities not foundational as Title VI is rooted law.

HB 024 #7 “Overburdened community which three or more environmental health indicators above the 75th percentile statewide being 24 percentiles.

News flash Brandywine is well over the 90 Percentile for one pollutant... that is above the cancer-causing rate... so to chance that we need three? Brandywine Air Quality program employed “Bio Engineering Scientist”, for which we are in the worst 30% of public health risk of air contaminants associated with one pollutant industry and we have 14, HB 024 addresses none of these in accountability.

When PSEG exceeded is EPA Air Quality permitting limits in its failure to comply with the environmental laws MDE resolved through a SEP, the project was to provide tangible environmental or public health benefits to the affected community or environment, yet MDE use the funding to support a “fishing” camp.

Brandywine has the most unique vulnerable population in MD. The misguided unreliability of an overburden of community, with 140 hazardous pollutant health risks are enough to demand action. HB 024 rated to “permitting” is superfluous in its may or cost?

Therefore, we ask that for the sake of and on behalf of the affected Title VI communities that HB 024 received an unfavorable report. Thank you.

If you have questions or concerns, you can refer this matter to ECCB– Neighborhood Leadership Council (NLC) by email at btb.eccb@gmail.com or by phone at 240.681.9070. Thank you for your considerable time and attention.

ECCB– NLC Administrative Chair


Respectfully submitted,

In solidarity, Brandywine/TB Southern Region Neighborhood Coalition; and the
Executive Community Citizen’s Board (ECCB) neighborhood Leadership Council
