



RADNOR-WINSTON IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

406 Woodford Road, Baltimore MD 21212

RadnorWinstonAssociation@gmail.com www.radnorwinston.org

March 4, 2024

House Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 250
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SUPPORT SB 1374, Setback Requirements for Crematories

Dear Chairman Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Radnor-Winston Improvement Association in strong support of House Bill 1374, which establishes a required 1,000-foot setback from homes, schools, and daycare facilities for new human crematories.

Radnor-Winston is a community on the York Road corridor in Baltimore City of more than 300 single-family homes, apartments, and affordable housing units for senior citizens and people with disabilities. More than one-third of those homes, including 87 single-family homes, two apartment buildings, and an affordable home for people with disabilities are located within 1,000 feet of a proposed crematorium incinerator at the Vaughn Greene Funeral Home directly across York Road from our community.

Human crematoria are incinerators, like solid and medical waste incinerators. They are so similar that Vaughn Greene uses emissions from burning medical waste to calculate the emissions its human crematorium is likely to produce. Yet human crematories have no emissions control equipment, and the Maryland Department of Environment does not monitor emissions or require stack tests after issuing a permit.

In our local case, Vaughn Greene is located within 200 feet of homes in a community with elevated rates of asthma and COPD. Hundreds of homes, including more than 100 in our neighborhood, are within 1,000 feet. Given other sources of pollution and nearby vulnerable populations, the State of Maryland should not allow this to occur. We strongly urge you to pass HB 1374 to give communities like those around Vaughn Greene a margin of protection from the rapidly expanding crematorium industry.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me at dan.pontious@icloud.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan Pontious". The signature is stylized and includes a large flourish that extends upwards and to the right.

Dan Pontious
President