

Good afternoon, my name is Jessica Gebase and I work in Environmental Health and Safety, specifically in industrial hygiene, my academic background is in chemistry and I am here as a constituent to support SB125. disclosing the hazards that are known to be present at superfund sites to adjacent home purchasers, these hazards move through the soil and encroach on private property.

A quick lesson in safety, hazards and risk are different terms. A hazard is something that has the potential to cause harm and we cannot change that potential. And risk is the likelihood that harm will come to pass from that hazard, we can control risk because we can control likelihood.

For SB125 we are talking about controlling the risk associated with the hazards found throughout Maryland at Superfund sites, these sites have already been assessed and have been deemed hazardous to human health and or the environment. The simplest and most effective way to control risk of these hazards is simply informing purchasers that the hazard **could be** present, just as we inform purchasers of older homes of possible contamination by other notable hazards such as lead, radon or asbestos.

Lead, radon, and asbestos are residential hazards that are well characterized and have documented effective mitigation practices, it is my understanding realestate law requires these hazards to be disclosed when known and when the hazard could be present. Dispite their very compelling health hazards, these elements and mineral possess, people regularly purchase homes possibly contaminated with them. Informing purchaser of the hazards of the superfund sites reduces risk that the hazards will cause harm it does not stop purchaser from buying older homes or homes in Maryland where radon naturally seeps from the earth.

I sit on the Restoration Advisory Board for the Fort Detrick Superfund site where groundwater is contaminated with volatile organic compounds, volatile meaning it will travel through the soil into basements similar to the path that radon would take. Radon is easily controlled by vapor mitigation systems, I just had one put in my home averaging less than 1000 dollars to install and it will be a selling point when the time comes. I have a safe home and I can prove it. These same systems can be used for volatile organic compounds.

Contaminants from the Fort Detrick Superfund site could travel the same path as radon through the soil into basements and building, one such contaminate is the carcinogen tetrachloroethene, its derogatory products include trichloroethene, and vinyl chloride both of which carry hazard warnings for germ cell mutagenicity and carcinogenicity. This is one compound at one superfund site, the hazards and risks of these superfund sites have already been comprehensively reviewed, and homeowners should be provided the information regarding this before they make (likely) the largest financial investment they will make in life.

From the state assembly's website, "The purpose of the General Assembly is to pass laws necessary for the welfare of the State" and informing Maryland residents of these hazards and their associated risk is necessary for the welfare of the State.

Thank you for your time and attention.