



January 27, 2025

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing
11 Bladen St.
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: SB 253 – Controlled Hazardous Substance Facility Permit – Research-Facilities – Chemical Warfare Material Requirements
FAVORABLE**

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Harford County Chamber of Commerce’s Board of Directors, I am writing in support of Senate Bill 253. This legislation will benefit not only the State of Maryland but the United States as a whole. SB 253 will provide crucial support for our Nation’s defense; specifically, to enhance our research and development capabilities at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) and modernize the Combat Capabilities Developments Command’s Chemical Biological Center’s (DEVCOM CBC’s) mission. Once enacted, SB 253 will permit the premier chemical and biological defense research facility of the United States Army to act swiftly in its examination and mitigation of the hazardous materials that our warfighters may encounter around the world, and to develop countermeasures to render them safe.

The Harford County Chamber of Commerce is the premier voice for business in Harford County representing almost 650 businesses/organizations which employ over 20,000 people. The Harford County Chamber recognizes the vital role APG plays in our national defense as well as being a vital contributor our county’s economy. The partnership between the Harford County Chamber of Commerce and APG is vital for fostering mutual growth, economic development, and community support. Our collaborations bridge the gap between military and civilian sectors, creating opportunities for local businesses to provide goods, services, and employment to military personnel and their families. In return, APG brings economic stability and enhances the region's workforce with skilled individuals. By working together, we address shared challenges, strengthen local infrastructure, and promote a thriving, resilient community that benefits all stakeholders.

The Harford County Chamber of Commerce is committed to supporting the mission of APG and its tenant organizations as one of the nation’s premier defense research and development centers. For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 253.

Sincerely,

Angela M. Rose
President & CEO

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