

February 25, 2025

The Honorable Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

RE: **OPPOSE** – Senate Bill 978 – Environmental Permits / CHERISH Our Communities Act

Smith Industries, Inc. is a part of the critical manufacturing sector as we are a manufacturer of steel, iron and aluminum products. We operate scrap metal recycling and processing facilities and employ over 650 employees. Nine of our facilities are located within the following Maryland Counties: Allegany, Baltimore, Caroline, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Prince George's, and Wicomico.

We purchase scrap metal materials (recyclable materials) from the general public, local businesses, and government agencies. Our facilities support their local economies, employing local residents while providing a much-needed market for local businesses to sustainably dispose of their metal scrap. Recycling metals is one of the most effective ways to preserve our planet's finite resources. We utilize proprietary, cutting-edge technology to maximize the recovery of metals. By turning discarded metals into high-quality, reusable materials, we reduce the need for mining new raw materials, thereby reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

Metal recycling doesn't just conserve resources; it plays a critical role in reducing energy consumption and fighting climate change.

Smith Industries opposes Senate Bill 978 as it negatively affects the critical infrastructure sectors that sustain our State and its residents. The proposed permitting process fails to mention timelines or associated costs. Moreover, there is no definition for what constitutes a community-based organization.

Senate Bill 978 will create business uncertainty that will stifle willingness to expand business or invest in new innovative technologies.

Smith Industries, Inc. respectfully requests an **unfavorable report on Senate Bill 978.**

Brian Benko
Information Officer
Smith Industries, Inc.