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January 17, 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: Senate Bill 253 – Controlled Hazardous Substance Facility Permit –
Research- Facilities – Chemical Warfare Material Requirements – FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 253. This legislation will ultimately benefit not only the State of Maryland but the United States and its warfighters that defend our country.

The Army Alliance Inc. is a non-profit civic organization that advocates for the well-being of the programs, people, and missions of Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG). The Army Alliance was established in 1999 and has successfully supported over \$500 million in projects and facilities that benefit the entire APG community. APG is a national asset and the number one employer in Northeastern Maryland.

The Army Alliance supports this bill that will provide the required environmental safeguards while permitting the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Chemical Biological Center (CBC) to carry out its research mission of developing and developing strategies to dispose of new forms of chemical weapons for the US. Army and, by extension, the Nation.

The Maryland statute originally enacted in 1993 to regulate the environmental impact of eliminating the chemical agent stockpile at the Edgewood facility of APG has created the unforeseen result of adversely impacting the ability of the Department of Defense to develop and demonstrate new technologies to manage and control chemical warfare materiel in tactical environments and emergency response actions. CBC is the DoD's designated organization for the research, development, and demonstration of technologies to destroy chemical and biological warfare materials. This includes new and novel thermal



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KEEPING OUR FUTURE STRONG

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technologies that operate without impact on the environment. This is a critical mission in support of our nation.

For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 253.

Mike Ray
President, Army Alliance

cc: Tom Albro, Chair of the Maryland Defense Research Coalition (MDRC)
Joan Smith, Bryson F. Popham, P.A., MDRC Executive Director