

Testimony Supporting SB0978
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
February 25, 2025

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

My name is David Jones, and I am a Curtis Bay resident. I live just 1,000 feet from the coal terminal, where I see dust accumulate on my home every single day. I also live with the constant pollution of 200 trucks per hour passing through my neighborhood. We have more pollution burden than any one community can take and we know we are not alone. We have learned from other communities on the fence line - like Bradeywine, Turner Station, Lothian and Cheverly. We are all in this together and simply asking for relief. I have also worked at many of these facilities and this is a worker safety bill as well. The air we breathe is thick with coal dust and other pollutants, and the health impacts on my family and neighbors are undeniable.

This has gone on for too long. The CHERISH Act is a necessary step to protect communities like mine that have been overburdened with pollution for generations. Maryland must start factoring in existing pollution when making permitting decisions. I urge you to support SB978 to bring fairness and accountability to this process.

Sincerely,
David Jones
Resident, Curtis Bay