

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 0253
Controlled Hazardous Substance Facility Permit – Research
Facilities – Chemical Warfare Material Requirements

COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

HEARING DATE: January 29, 2025

SPONSOR: Chair, Education, Energy and the Environment Committee (By
Request – Departmental – Commerce)

POSITION: UnfavorableChair

Brian J. Feldman, Vice Chair Cheryl C. Kagan and Members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee,

This bill appears to give the Army a pass on the safety measures included in the current existing legislation. As a former resident of the Old Farm community off Yellow Springs Road, across from Ft. Detrick, I am extremely concerned about the groundwater contamination. There has been an ongoing Ft. Detrick Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) in place which was formed to provide transparency to local residents regarding Ft. Detrick's mitigation of toxic substances. Area B was the area where toxic waste was deposited as a result of research on weapons of mass destruction. While much of the waste may have been incinerated prior to being deposited into the ground, there has been inappropriate handling and recording of these incidents. The result of which has caused significant concern for the health of the local residents which includes cancer and birth defects. Construction continues around this region and more and more residents are being exposed to this contamination.

I am vehemently opposed to this bill as it is currently written. The current legislation provides specified measures to ensure the public's safety and therefore I urge you to let the current legislation stand. Please return a decision of **Unfavorable** to SB0253.

Thank you,

J. Elizabeth Bauer
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