

3012 Hillcrest Drive
Salem, IL 62881
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,

This letter supports the conduct of “treatability studies” at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. These are essential efforts that support both the survivability and fight-ability of U.S. forces. They also directly impact the ability to safely identify, handle, and dispose of a wide variety of poisonous and toxic materials whether of military or civilian origin. The U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command’s Chemical and Biological Center has been the world’s leader in technical knowledge and practical expertise in such matters since its predecessor, Edgewood Arsenal, was established in 1917. It has long supported other government agencies, such as the FBI and Secret Service in their protection and intelligence missions. In addition, the U.S. Army’s 20th CBRNE Command has provided key services at home and internationally when such hazards pose an urgent threat.

All these needs and capabilities have a common, essential need – the kind of information that comes from “treatability studies.” Often this information is needed on an urgent, even crisis basis. Only Aberdeen Proving Ground has the necessary knowledge, facilities, and procedures to conduct and/or manage such studies.

I urge the Maryland General Assembly to ensure these studies can continue by passing Senate Bill 253.



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Summary of experience on which I make this recommendation:

- Colonel (Retired), US Army. Thirty years experience in U.S. Army Chemical Corps followed by 20 years consulting in the same field.
- Former Director of Materiel Test, Dugway Proving Ground, Utah. Dugway was a subordinate command to the U S Army Test and Evaluation Command APG. Managed the required safe storage handling, and disposal of actual chemical warfare materials as well as extensive testing with simulants. Supported testing and development of environmentally friendly disposal technologies for explosive materials
- Former Project Manager Nuclear Biological Chemical Defense Systems, APG. Managed development testing, and fielding of equipment for military use.
- President of Army Alliance, Inc., Aberdeen, MD from 2004 – 2009 This tenure included representation and testimony activities inherent in supporting the FY2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC 2005) and which resulted in the electronic activities at Ft Monmouth, NJ relocating to Maryland.
- Panel member for three National Academy of Sciences studies for chemical and biological defense problems.
- Support contractor to the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program, supporting the recently completed destruction of the U.S chemical weapons stockpile.