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Budget and Taxation Committee
Chair, Capital Budget Subcommittee

Chair, Senate Democratic Caucus

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Senator Craig J. Zucker
Senate Bill 764- State Designations - State Mineral - Chromite (State Mineral Act)
March 13th, 2025
1:00pm
Position: Favorable

Good afternoon, Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and distinguished members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. It is my pleasure to testify today in **support of Senate Bill 764- State Designations - State Mineral - Chromite (State Mineral Act)**.

This bill would designate chromite as Maryland's official State Mineral. The idea for this legislation was first brought to me in 2017 by David Shore, a Montgomery County native, who at the time was just 10 years old. Now, several years later, David is back to testify once again, demonstrating his continued passion for Maryland's rich geological history. I am proud to support this initiative and his dedication to seeing it through.

The Maryland Archives have an established set of criteria that all proposed state symbols must meet. These criteria include: historical significance, uniqueness, relevance to Maryland history and universal acceptance of being representative of Maryland culture and tradition. With that being said our state proudly claims the first discovery of chromite in the United States when Isaac Tyson, Jr. identified the mineral in Bare Hills, Baltimore County, in 1808.

For much of the 19th century, Maryland stood as the world's leading source of chromite, with substantial deposits found across Baltimore, Harford, Cecil, and Carroll counties, as well as at Soldier's Delight. This rich heritage continues to be commemorated locally through names such as Chrome Hill and Chromine Road. Designating chromite as our state mineral would not only honor this legacy but also create valuable educational opportunities to highlight the significance of Maryland's natural resources and their role in our history.

I would like to thank the cosponsors – Chair Feldman and Senator Love – for their support of this important initiative.

I respectfully request a **favorable report on Senate Bill 764**. Thank you for your consideration.