



January 27, 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 as a whole.

The Route 40 Business Association is a non-profit organization established in 1987 with the goal of helping to enhance the business environment for the Route 40 corridor. Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) is the biggest economic driver on the Route 40 corridor. Our 100+ members have businesses that support the APG mission directly (contracts with APG) and/or indirectly (support the needs of the 22K APG workforce). Many of us have family and friends that work at APG. We understand the breadth of missions at APG, and that these missions are critical to keep our warfighters and nation safe. For many of our member organizations, a thriving APG translates into a thriving business.

The Route 40 Business Association is committed to supporting the mission of APG and its tenant organizations as one of the nation's premier defense research and development centers. We are confident that APG conducts these missions safely with the required environmental safeguards. For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 253.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R Andrews".

Robert Andrews
President, Route 40 Business Association
P.O. Box 1203
Abingdon, MD 21009

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