

SUSAN K. MCCOMAS
Legislative District 34B
Harford County

DEPUTY MINORITY WHIP

Appropriations Committee

Subcommittees

Public Safety and Administration
Oversight Committee on Pensions

Joint Committees

Administrative, Executive,
and Legislative Review

Legislative Ethics

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Women Legislators of Maryland



Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 411
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3272 · 301-858-3272
800-492-7122 Ext. 3272
Fax 410-841-3202 · 301-858-3202
Susan.McComas@house.state.md.us

The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West Wing
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 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. Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) has been a major American defense facility since 1917. We have a wonderful, talented and patriotic workforce who have consistently protected America in peace and war. America is challenged and threatened in a very unstable and troubled world. It is important that we maintain the nation's security from any and all threats of harm – domestic and foreign.

The Aberdeen Proving Ground is the largest economic engine in the northeastern Maryland corridor. The Maryland Commerce Department supports the passage of this legislation for America's security; APG currently employs a vast number of highly educated PhD's as military and civilian scientists and research engineers. It is recognized as one of the world's most significant research and development facilities for military endeavors. With over 18,000 civilian and military personnel, APG is the largest employer in Harford County and one the largest in our state. APG has been and continues to be a true partner with the community, employing technical staff as well as sophisticated mechanics, tradesman, and technicians.

Several years ago, while in attendance at an event, the Commander of the Proving Ground asked me what issues were concerning in Harford County. At that time, I mentioned the opioid crisis. The Commander then took it upon himself to organize two opioid conferences at APG with experts to examine the information from families that had been severely impacted by this scourge. It was a tremendous success.

APG sponsors Freestate Challenge Academy, an educational facility that takes students who have withdrawn from high school between 16 and 18 years of age. The Academy offers them a second chance at a quality education. For 22 weeks, these young "cadets" voluntarily

live in the academy's residential program, which is a structured, disciplined, and quasi-military community. The Maryland National Guard oversees the 17-month program. The cadets frequently perform at community events, exuding confidence, and pride in these public ceremonies.

As an Army facility, APG supports a number of programs to assist soldiers and their families to connect with the community and its public school system, youth services, health and welfare programs, and housing. Harford County is very proud to have Aberdeen Proving Ground as its protector, friend, and extended community partner.

Please return a Favorable Report for SB 253.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan K. McComas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" and last name "McComas" clearly legible.

Susan K. McComas
Legislative District 34B
Town of Bel Air, Greater Bel Air &
Abingdon

