

# **Maryland Military Coalition SB0253 Written Testimo**

Uploaded by: DAVID Dragics

Position: FAV



## MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

*Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy*

January 27, 2025

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman  
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Request for **FAVORABLE Report** – SB0253 – Controlled Hazardous Substance Facility Permit – Research Facilities – Chemical Warfare Material Requirements

Dear Chair Feldman and distinguished members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition (MMC), I write to recommend a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on **SB0253 – Controlled Hazardous Substance Facility Permit – Research Facilities – Chemical Warfare Material Requirements**, at the request of the Maryland Department of Commerce. This bill provides that certain provisions of the law regarding chemical warfare material requirements under a controlled hazardous substance facility permit do not apply to certain research facilities under certain circumstances. This bill applies only to the U.S. Army's Chemical and Biological Center (CBC) at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), Maryland.

As pointed out in the attached letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Threat Reduction and Arms Control of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense to the Executive Office of the Governor, APG is "the nation's treaty-designated single small-scale facility," the only place in the United States where "chemical agents at the quantities needed for defense research, development, and testing" can be fabricated and stored.

The MMC **strongly supports SB0253** and asks the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee for a **FAVORABLE** report. Passing this bill would support both the defense community and veterans in Maryland, who comprise a large portion of the workforce at APG.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization comprised of 22 prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups. It represents over 150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and their families, caregivers, and survivors. Visit our website at <https://mdmilcoalition.org/>.

Respectfully,

David L. Dragics  
COL (Ret), U.S. Army  
Legislative Director

Attachment



## **Member Organizations of the Maryland Military Coalition**

Air Force Sergeants Association

American Military Society

American Minority Veterans Research Project

Association of the United States Navy

Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service

Disabled American Veterans

Fleet Reserve Association of Annapolis

Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A

Maryland Air National Guard Retirees' Association

National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce

Military Officers Association of America

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Military Order of the World Wars

Montford Point Marines of America

National Association of Black Veterans

National Active and Retired Federal Employees, Maryland Veterans

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

Platoon 22

Reserve Organization of America

Society of Military Widows

Veterans of Foreign Wars



NUCLEAR, CHEMICAL, AND  
BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3050 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3050

Mr. Brad Fallon, Deputy Legislative Officer  
Executive Office of the Governor  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Fallon,

As the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Threat Reduction and Arms Control, I oversee the U.S. Chemical Demilitarization Program as well as several portfolios that sponsor technology development at our nation's center for chemical and biological weapons defense research and development, the U.S. Army's Chemical and Biological Center (CBC) at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), Maryland. The Department of Defense (DoD) considers the acceleration of research, development, prototyping, and testing to be a national defense priority and critical to the protection of our warfighters.

Adversaries such as North Korea, Russia, Iran, and China are only becoming more brazen in their development and use of WMD. The DoD must develop and field technologies that protect our troops from these weapons and give them the ability to defeat, disable or destroy them before they can be used against us or our allies.

The CBC possesses unique engineering expertise to accelerate the design, testing, prototyping, and fielding of chemical agent destruction solutions needed by our warfighters. They have robust test facilities and environmental and safety programs. They also have a long and demonstrated history of performing safe and environmentally compliant chemical weapons-related research and development. Importantly, APG hosts a unique national asset: the nation's treaty-designated single small-scale facility. As such, APG is the only place in the country where we can fabricate and store chemical agents at the quantities needed for defense research, development, and testing.

The CBC routinely develops and tests new thermal destruction technologies to support warfighter needs to destroy chemical and biological agents in tactical environments. It is critical that we maintain the ability to perform needed research, development, prototyping, and testing in support of defense and counterproliferation priorities. I appreciate your support to ensure this unique and critically important capability is sustained at APG.

Thank you,

Kingston Reif

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for  
Threat Reduction and Arms Control

# **Controlled Hazardous Substance Facility Permit**

Uploaded by: Delegate Susan McComas

Position: FAV



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

*Past President*

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" being the most prominent.

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





**MDE SB253 SUP.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jeremy Baker

Position: FAV



**The Maryland Department of the Environment  
Secretary Serena McIlwain**

***Senate Bill 253  
Controlled Hazardous Substance Facility Permit - Research Facilities - Chemical  
Warfare Material Requirements***

**Position:** Support

**Committee:** Education, Energy, and the Environment

**Date:** January 29, 2025

**From:** Leslie Gray, Government Relations Officer

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The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** SB 62.

The bill is intended to amend current law that is unintentionally serving as an obstacle to the ability of the U.S. Army to conduct research and development work to address critical national defense and security challenges posed by adversaries' potential use of chemical warfare materials.

The bill would exclude a research facility designated by the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) for the research, development, or demonstration of technologies related to chemical warfare materials from certain conditions and prohibitions applicable to incineration of chemical warfare materials. Specifically, a research facility would be excluded from:

- Performance standards under §7-239.3 of the Environment Article that a permit applicant must meet in order for the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or the Department) to issue a CHS Facility Permit for a facility that incinerates chemical warfare materials; and
- Conditions under §7-239.4 of the Environment Article that MDE must include in a CHS Facility Permit for a facility that incinerates chemical warfare materials.

Current statutory provisions were adopted in the 1990s to address concerns associated with the required destruction of the nation's stockpile of chemical weapons, a portion of which was being stored at Aberdeen Proving Ground. The 1990s era statutory provisions established specific conditions in the event that incineration was chosen as the method of destruction for chemical warfare material that included requirements not appropriate for work that is conducted in the context of research and development. For example, the statute currently requires that the destruction technology permitted to be used for chemical warfare material must have been demonstrated to consistently meet all applicable State and federal performance standards in a comparable operational facility. This is not possible if the technology under consideration as part of a research project is new, innovative technology not previously commercialized.

MDE concurs with the Department of Commerce's technical amendments that would allow the bill to serve its intended purpose while maintaining consistency with the federal hazardous waste regulatory program and avoiding potential sanctions by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The bill would remove statutory impediments that prevent important national security and defense preparedness work from being conducted at a Maryland facility that is uniquely qualified to perform such work.

For the reasons detailed above MDE asks for a **FAVORABLE** report for SB 62.

**SB253\_Fav\_HCG.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lawrence Richardson

Position: FAV

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**ROBERT G. CASSILLY**  
Harford County Executive



**ROBERT S. McCORD**  
Director of Administration

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January 27, 2025

Senator Brian Feldman, Chair  
Education, Energy, & The Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support on SB253 – Controlled Hazardous Substance Facility Permit – Research Facilities  
– Chemical Warfare Material Requirements

Dear Chairman Feldman and Committee Members,

The provisions of Section 7-239 of the Environment Article were adopted at a time when Aberdeen Proving Ground South (formerly Edgewood Arsenal) was in the process of disposing vast stocks of aging chemical and biological munitions produced during the World Wars and Cold War. This major undertaking was quite understandably of considerable concern for the communities in the APG vicinity. We are delighted that the disposal mission has been successfully completed.

Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) now remains as the center of research and development for the detection and elimination of chemical weapons; you might recall the lead role an APG team played in locating and neutralizing Syria's vast chemical weapons stocks. To further that mission, APG continues to work with very small quantities of warfare materials in order to analyze properties and develop effective and efficient disposal processes. Due to the very small quantities involved and the highly controlled processes used for this purpose, it is not necessary to mire these valuable scientific efforts in the cumbersome processes developed for the destruction of vast quantities of aging munitions.

Aberdeen Proving Ground is Harford County's number one employer, providing well-paying jobs to many of our citizens. The APG leadership and most of the workforce resided in Harford County and I am fully confident that the requested changes to Section 7-239 of the Environment Article, as stated in Senate Bill 253, are in the best interest of our nation, our state, and the citizens of Harford County. I respectfully request that the Education, Energy, & Environment Committee report favorably on SB253.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "R. Cassilly", is written over the typed name.

Robert G. Cassilly



**Letter\_DASD to MD Governors Office\_signed.pdf**

Uploaded by: Sarah Joan Smith

Position: FAV



NUCLEAR, CHEMICAL, AND  
BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAMS

## OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3050 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3050

Mr. Brad Fallon, Deputy Legislative Officer  
Executive Office of the Governor  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Fallon,

As the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Threat Reduction and Arms Control, I oversee the U.S. Chemical Demilitarization Program as well as several portfolios that sponsor technology development at our nation's center for chemical and biological weapons defense research and development, the U.S. Army's Chemical and Biological Center (CBC) at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), Maryland. The Department of Defense (DoD) considers the acceleration of research, development, prototyping, and testing to be a national defense priority and critical to the protection of our warfighters.

Adversaries such as North Korea, Russia, Iran, and China are only becoming more brazen in their development and use of WMD. The DoD must develop and field technologies that protect our troops from these weapons and give them the ability to defeat, disable or destroy them before they can be used against us or our allies.

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The CBC routinely develops and tests new thermal destruction technologies to support warfighter needs to destroy chemical and biological agents in tactical environments. It is critical that we maintain the ability to perform needed research, development, prototyping, and testing in support of defense and counterproliferation priorities. I appreciate your support to ensure this unique and critically important capability is sustained at APG.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kingston Reif".

Kingston Reif

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for  
Threat Reduction and Arms Control

cc:

The Honorable Serena Coleman McIlwain

Maryland Secretary of the Environment

The Honorable Kevin A. Anderson

Maryland Secretary of Commerce

The Honorable Anthony C. Woods

Maryland Secretary of Veterans & Military Families

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman

Chairman of Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

The Honorable Marc A. Korman

Chairman of Environment and Transportation Committee

Mr. Tom Albro

Chairman, Maryland Defense Research Coalition

Mr. Bryson F. Popham

Army Alliance

**SB 253\_ARMY ALLIANCE\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Sarah Joan Smith

Position: FAV



**Army Alliance  
Board of Directors**

**President, Mike Ray**  
Harford County Chamber of Commerce  
SURVICE Engineering

**Vice President, Patrick Mullin**  
QED Systems

**Treasurer, Terry Grant**  
KatzAbsoch

**Secretary, Denise Carnaggio**  
Founding Member  
Community Member at Large

**Legislative Lead, Jill McClune**  
Avon Protection Systems, Inc.

**President Emeritus, Tony Lisuzzo**  
Iron Wave Technologies, LLC

**Tom Albro**  
Community Member at Large

**Gerard Brohm**  
Brohm Consulting, LLC

**Pete Christensen**  
JRAD

**Dean Ertwine**  
Maryland Department of Commerce

**Karen Holt**  
Harford County Office of Economic  
Development

**Larry Muzzelo**  
Community Member at Large

**Eric McLaughlin**  
Pessin Katz Law, P.A. (PK Law)

**Shane Sims**  
Parsons

**Beetle Smith**  
MacKenzie Commercial Real Estate

**William Sorenson**  
Cecil County Office of Economic  
Development

**Richard Spencer**  
ANSER

**Michael Tait**  
St. John Properties

**Executive Director**  
Sue Nappi

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,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 253. This legislation will ultimately benefit not only the State of Maryland but the United States and its warfighters that defend our country.

The Army Alliance Inc. is a non-profit civic organization that advocates for the well-being of the programs, people, and missions of Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG). The Army Alliance was established in 1999 and has successfully supported over \$500 million in projects and facilities that benefit the entire APG community. APG is a national asset and the number one employer in Northeastern Maryland.

The Army Alliance supports this bill that will provide the required environmental safeguards while permitting the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Chemical Biological Center (CBC) to carry out its research mission of developing and developing strategies to dispose of new forms of chemical weapons for the US. Army and, by extension, the Nation.

The Maryland statute originally enacted in 1993 to regulate the environmental impact of eliminating the chemical agent stockpile at the Edgewood facility of APG has created the unforeseen result of adversely impacting the ability of the Department of Defense to develop and demonstrate new technologies to manage and control chemical warfare materiel in tactical environments and emergency response actions. CBC is the DoD's designated organization for the research, development, and demonstration of technologies to destroy chemical and biological warfare materials. This includes new and novel thermal



# ARMY ALLIANCE

KEEPING OUR FUTURE STRONG

## **Army Alliance Board of Directors**

**President, Mike Ray**  
Harford County Chamber of Commerce  
SURVICE Engineering

**Vice President, Patrick Mullin**  
QED Systems

**Treasurer, Terry Grant**  
KatzAbsoch

**Secretary, Denise Carnaggio**  
Founding Member  
Community Member at Large

**Legislative Lead, Jill McClune**  
Avon Protection Systems, Inc.

**President Emeritus, Tony Lisuzzo**  
Iron Wave Technologies, LLC

**Tom Albro**  
Community Member at Large

**Gerard Brohm**  
Brohm Consulting, LLC

**Pete Christensen**  
JRAD

**Dean Ertwine**  
Maryland Department of Commerce

**Karen Holt**  
Harford County Office of Economic  
Development

**Larry Muzzelo**  
Community Member at Large

**Eric McLaughlin**  
Pessin Katz Law, P.A. (PK Law)

**Shane Sims**  
Parsons

**Beetle Smith**  
MacKenzie Commercial Real Estate

**William Sorenson**  
Cecil County Office of Economic  
Development

**Richard Spencer**  
ANSER

**Michael Tait**  
St. John Properties

**Executive Director**  
Sue Nappi

technologies that operate without impact on the environment. This is a critical mission in support of our nation.

For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 253.

Mike Ray  
President, Army Alliance

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



**SB 253\_HARFORD CHAMBER\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Sarah Joan Smith

Position: FAV



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: SB 253 – Controlled Hazardous Substance Facility Permit – Research-Facilities – Chemical Warfare Material Requirements  
FAVORABLE**

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Harford County Chamber of Commerce’s Board of Directors, I am writing in support of Senate Bill 253. This legislation will benefit not only the State of Maryland but the United States as a whole. SB 253 will provide crucial support for our Nation’s defense; specifically, to enhance our research and development capabilities at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) and modernize the Combat Capabilities Developments Command’s Chemical Biological Center’s (DEVCOM CBC’s) mission. Once enacted, SB 253 will permit the premier chemical and biological defense research facility of the United States Army to act swiftly in its examination and mitigation of the hazardous materials that our warfighters may encounter around the world, and to develop countermeasures to render them safe.

The Harford County Chamber of Commerce is the premier voice for business in Harford County representing almost 650 businesses/organizations which employ over 20,000 people. The Harford County Chamber recognizes the vital role APG plays in our national defense as well as being a vital contributor our county’s economy. The partnership between the Harford County Chamber of Commerce and APG is vital for fostering mutual growth, economic development, and community support. Our collaborations bridge the gap between military and civilian sectors, creating opportunities for local businesses to provide goods, services, and employment to military personnel and their families. In return, APG brings economic stability and enhances the region's workforce with skilled individuals. By working together, we address shared challenges, strengthen local infrastructure, and promote a thriving, resilient community that benefits all stakeholders.

The Harford County Chamber of Commerce is committed to supporting the mission of APG and its tenant organizations as one of the nation’s premier defense research and development centers. For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 253.

Sincerely,

**Angela M. Rose  
President & CEO**

108 South Bond Street  
Bel Air, Maryland 21014  
Ph. 410.838.2020 | Fx. 410.893.4715  
[www.harfordchamber.org](http://www.harfordchamber.org)

**FY 25 Board of Directors  
Officers**

Immediate Past Chair:  
Brienne Baccaro Norris  
Weyrich, Cronin, & Sorra  
Chair: Chris Stone  
*E-Moxie*  
Chair Elect: Monica Worrell  
*APG Federal Credit Union*  
Vice Chair of Finance: Mike Ray  
*SURVICE Engineering*  
Vice Chair of Administration:  
Mike Maxwell  
*MAXED OUT Home Group*

**Members at Large**

Josh Nelson  
*Chesapeake Environmental Management*  
Meghan Jack  
*MedStar Health*

**Board Members**

Dr. Sean Bulson  
*Harford County Public Schools*  
PJ Craig  
*Harford Community Action Agency*  
Anthony DiPaula  
*DiPaula Law*  
Dr. Theresa Felder  
*Harford Community College*  
Ron Fisher  
*Harford County Caucus of African America Leaders*  
Stephanie Giordano  
*MacGregor’s Restaurant*  
Terry Grant  
*Katz Abosch*  
Andy Guckert  
*M&T Bank*  
Mary Hastler  
*Harford County Public Library*  
Sarah Karantonis  
*University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health*  
Dave Karczeski  
*BCV Commercial Realty*  
Claudia Nachtigal  
*The Highlands School*  
Steve Overbay  
*Harford County Office of Economic Development*  
Len Parrish  
*Gemcraft Homes/Freedom Land Development*  
Eric Rebbert  
*Peake Partners*  
Chanel Rhoads-Reed  
*Baltimore Gas & Electric*  
Robert Wehland  
*Freedom Federal Credit Union*

**President/CEO  
Angela Rose**



**SB 253\_NAPPI\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Sarah Joan Smith

Position: FAV



210 War Admiral Way  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078

January 24, 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.

I am the owner of Nappi Associates, LLC, a women-owned small business that provides consulting services to Harford County non-profits. My primary customer is the Army Alliance, a non-profit civic organization that advocates for the mission, people and positions at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG). I am also a retired Army civilian employee, concluding my career as the Deputy for Operations and Plans at the Communications-Electronics Command at APG. In my Army civilian career and now as a consultant, I have had varying assignments in which I collaborated with the senior leaders and researchers that are responsible for the technologies that are the cause for the proposed legislation. I can confidently state that these technologies are necessary and critical to ensure the safety of our warfighters and that the work will be done safely and in accordance with all environmental safeguards. I am proud to have had the opportunity to collaborate with the highly capable, well-educated workforce (many of which are PhDs) that are responsible for this critical work.

I have come to appreciate the economic impact of APG for Northeastern MD and the state -APG is the sixth largest workforce center in the state. Additionally, these highly skilled, educated workers performing this critical work will attract additional high technology missions and workforce, helping to further establish Maryland as a leader in technology. For these reasons, I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 253.

Sue Nappi  
Owner, Nappi Associates, LLC

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

**SB 253\_ROUTE 40\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Sarah Joan Smith

Position: FAV



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



**SB 253\_SURVICE MDRC\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Sarah Joan Smith

Position: FAV

27 January 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 (SB) 253. Ultimately, this legislation will benefit not only the State of Maryland but the United States as a whole. As a U.S. Department of Defense (DoD)-focused company that employs many veterans and works to keep our military safe, we understand the value this legislation will bring to the Warfighter, allowing them to be more effective and safer in carrying out their missions. SB 253 will provide crucial support for our nation's defense, enhancing our research and development (R&D) capabilities at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) and modernizing the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command's Chemical Biological Center's (CBC's) mission. Once enacted, SB 253 will allow this premier chemical and biological defense research facility to act swiftly in examining and mitigating hazardous materials encountered by our Warfighters globally and develop countermeasures to render them safe.

SURVICE Engineering Company has been in Harford County since 1981, supporting the DoD and Warfighters on APG and around the world. Our role is to ensure our Warfighters are effective and safe and come home to their families, friends, and nation. We know CBC has a unique mission that only they can conduct for the DoD and our country's safety. The ability to complete their mission that this legislation will allow not only protects our Warfighters and nation but will help grow the economy in all Northeastern Maryland.

SURVICE is committed to supporting the mission of APG and its tenant organizations as one of the nation's premier defense R&D centers. For these reasons, I strongly advocate SB 253.

Sincerely,



Michael S. Ray  
VP, Army, Marine Corps, and SOCOM Sector

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

**SB 253\_WYETT\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Sarah Joan Smith

Position: FAV

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 Combat 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.



Wyett H. Colclasure II  
3012 Hillcrest Drive  
Salem, IL 62881-3740

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.

# 1-PAGER PUB.pdf

Uploaded by: Tom Albro

Position: FAV



## Maryland Legislative Change to Support the Combat Capabilities Development Command's Chemical Biological Center (DEVCOM CBC) Mission.

**BACKGROUND:** About 30 years ago, Maryland enacted statutes to protect the environment during the destruction of large quantities of chemical agents stored at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG). The U.S. has since destroyed its large chemical agent stockpile; however, **the threat of chemical and biological weapons remains and based on recent events, become more likely.** The Maryland law enacted in the early 1990s, was widely supported and was effective at that time. Today however, circumstances and the global threat have drastically changed. Maryland must continue its commitment to environmental protection while recognizing that APG faces ever-evolving threats. These threats must be addressed to safeguard our armed forces, first responders, and the nation.

APG's mission has evolved to tackle these new threats, focusing on studying and implementing technologies to mitigate them. **Their objective is clear: protect our troops and ensure national defense.** As chemical and biological weapons continually evolve, APG's critical services must be performed without delay. **Our warfighters, first responders, and armed forces require that this work be completed swiftly.** To achieve this, the MDRC proposes updating the current legislative language, to be introduced on January 29, 2025, as Senate Bill 253/House Bill 62.

**THE GOAL:** DEVCOM CBC is the nation's premier provider of innovative chemical and biological defense solutions. **Its unparalleled role in technology development cannot be replicated elsewhere in the U.S.** CBC fosters research, development, testing, and **the application of technologies to protect warfighters, first responders, and the nation from chemical and biological threats.** Additionally, CBC's unique engineering expertise accelerates the design, prototyping, and fielding of protective equipment. It maintains robust capabilities to identify, remove, and destroy recovered chemical and biological materials.

Employing Army military personnel, civilians, and contractors, CBC possesses the scientific, engineering, and operational skills needed for mission success. The proposed legislation calls for a modest change in Maryland law to allow the development and demonstration of new thermal treatment technologies. This change will

enhance our nation's ability to protect our warfighters, allies, and the homeland from chemical weapons **while also ensuring protective measures and safeguarding human health and the environment in Maryland.**

CBC is the Department of Defense's designated organization for the research, development, and demonstration of technologies to destroy chemical and biological warfare materials including new and novel thermal treatment technologies. The 1993 Maryland statute did not anticipate rapid changes in material development and the emerging and ever evolving threat. Current Maryland law must be updated to allow the research, development, and demonstration of new technologies using small quantities of chemical agents to counter these emerging threats.

***We urge you to show your support for all U.S. warfighters, in fields of conflict around the world, by enacting Senate Bill 253/House Bill 62***



### THE MARYLAND DEFENSE RESEARCH COALITION (MDRC)

#### SUPPORTING DEVCOM CBC

The MDRC is an organization established to update current Maryland State statutory language to allow DEVCOM CBC, the nation's provider of innovative chemical and biological defense solutions, to conduct much needed and critical research, development and demonstration activities that they are equipped to safely execute.

# **MD Legislature 1-page fact sheet\_.pdf**

Uploaded by: Tom Albro

Position: FAV

**CBC'S SPECIALIZED WORKFORCE**

CBC's highly specialized and certified workforce has an unmatched level of expertise in the chemical biological assessment, destruction, recovery, and remediation space.



- Program Management and Logistics**
- Management of resources and personnel
  - Partnerships with government, industry and academia

- Operational Equipment and Mechanics**
- Material handling equipment, i.e., cranes, forklifts, excavators
  - Industrial mechanics, i.e., HVAC, pumps, motors, electrical
  - Trade skills, i.e., plumbing, carpentry, construction
  - Transportation

- Research Design and Method Development**
- Equipment calibration
  - Test design and study parameters
  - Quality assurance standards
  - Agent concentration verification
  - Filter and Environmental Enclosure Testing

- Environmental Sampling and Analysis**
- Air monitoring
  - Water and sediment sampling
  - Mobile and fixed laboratory analysis

- Chemical and Biological Agent Handling**
- Personnel protective equipment
  - Personnel decontamination stations
  - Destruction system operations
  - Agent synthesis
  - Building/equipment decontamination

**CBC's employees average 20+ years of experience and are cross-trained to meet essential project needs.**

**CBC'S SPECIALIZED CHEMICAL BIOLOGICAL (C/B) DEFENSE FACILITIES**



**Prototype Detonation Test & Destruction Facility (PDTDF)**

The PDTDF is capable of testing C/B destruction technologies, while providing air containment for man-portable to heavy transportable systems. The PDTDF has conducted defense operations using 60+ lbs. of explosives. Safety features include a blast chamber, containment chamber, and cascade ventilation systems.



**Single Small-Scale Facility (SSSF)**

The SSSF is designated under the Chemical Weapons Convention as the repository for the U.S. research and development stock of toxic chemical agents. The SSSF is the only location in the U.S. where more than 10g of chemical agent is permitted to be stored. These chemical agents are used to conduct defense research and development for the DOD, which is imperative to maintaining an effective C/B defense posture against global threats and actors.

**CBC'S SAFETY RECORD**

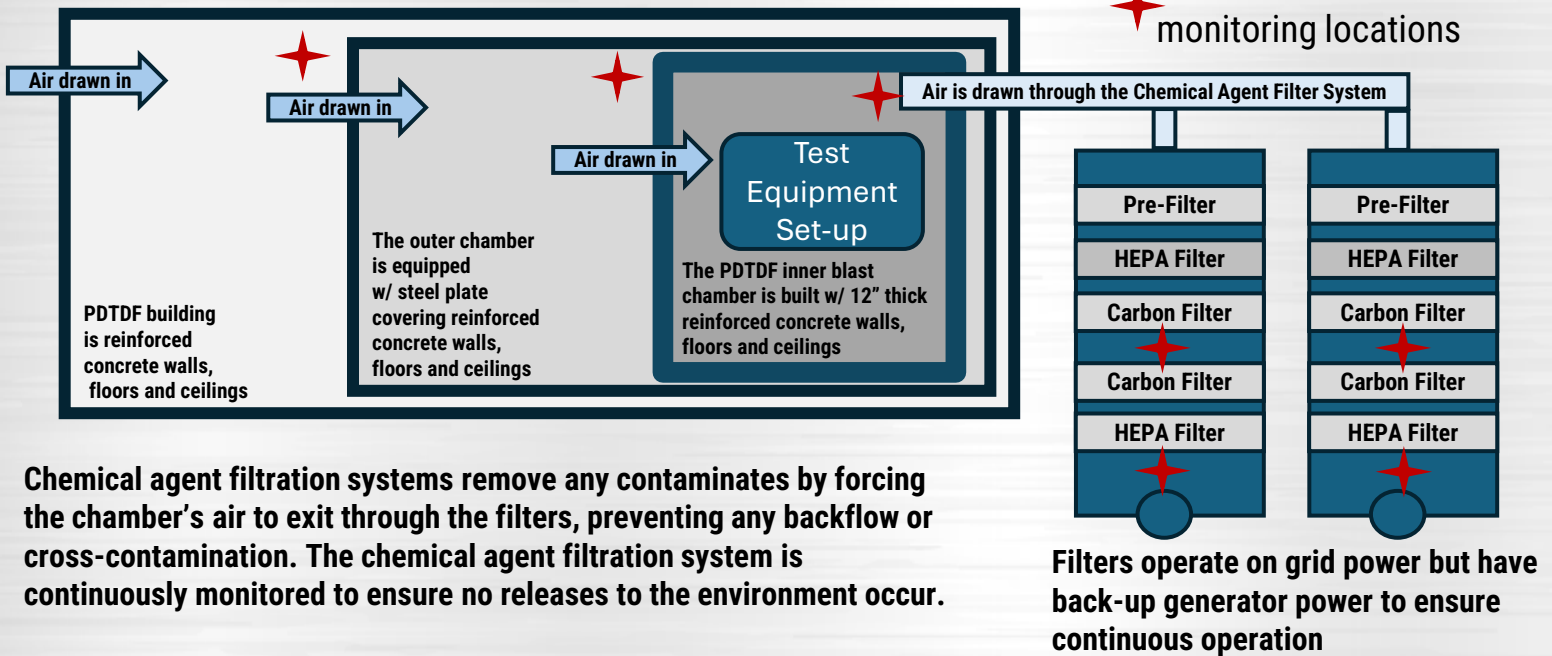
CBC's OSHA recordable rate is 0.4. The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) average for what CBC's category is 6.3, making **CBC safety rating 15.75 better than their industry average for recordable injuries**. CBC's Lost time rate is 0.3. The NAICS in their category is 3.6, making **CBC safety rating 12 times better than their industry average in lost time incidences**.

CBC's safety record proves that members of their workforce are safer than workers in the average florist shop and their quantitative safety metrics are on par with working at a bank or insurance office. This is achieved by a well-trained workforce that operates in highly toxic chemical and biological agent environments almost every day of the year.



**CBC'S LAYERS OF PROTECTION DURING TEST OPERATIONS**

**Example: PDTDF Facility**



Air monitoring is performed at the OSHA worker protection level, where an unmasked CBC employee can safely work 8 hours a day, 5 days a week, 50 weeks a year for 30-years without health effects

**CBC'S SPECIALIZED CONTINUOUS AIR MONITORING SYSTEMS**

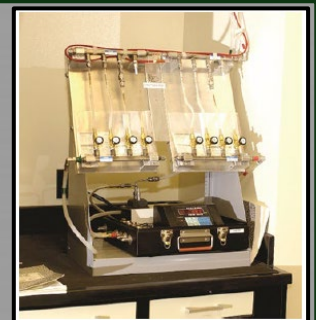


**Miniature Continuous Air Monitoring System (MINICAMS)**

Automatic air monitoring system that collects chemical compounds from the air and analyzes them on a gas chromatogram to detect trace levels of the compounds. The MINICAMS is a lightweight, transportable, continuous low-level monitor that provides a visual and audible alarm if agent vapors exceed the alarm set point.

**Depot Area Air Monitoring System (DAAMS)**

Portable air-sampling technology, designed to draw air through a glass sorbent collection tube. As the air is passed through the sorbent tube, any agent is collected. After sampling, the tube is removed from the vacuum line and analyzed at CBC's accredited environmental monitoring laboratory. The purpose of DAAMS confirmation samples is to confirm or refute a (MINICAMS) alarm.



If a technology is expected to operate for extended periods, an EPA air emissions performance test is performed using to evaluate all potential hazardous air constituents (metals, organics, PCBs, dioxins/furans, etc.) against human health and ecological risk standards.

**sb 253 - MDRC - FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Tom Albro

Position: FAV

# Maryland Defense Research Coalition (MDRC)

191 Main Street, Suite 310

Annapolis, MD 21401



January 27, 2025



The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
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,

My name is Tom Albro, and I currently serve as the Chairman of the Maryland Defense Research Coalition (MDRC). I am also a former President of the Army Alliance.

Both the Army Alliance and the MDRC support the overall mission of the Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) and both organizations are advocating for Senate Bill 253. The language change in this bill is necessary for the United States Army to continue to explore new and innovative chemical and biological defense technologies, in order to protect both our warfighters and the security interests of our nation. During the past 100 years, Aberdeen Proving Ground has grown to become the primary focus of research and development globally for the United States Army. APG is one of several military installations in Maryland that are vital instruments of our nation's defense. They also provide a significant benefit to the economy of the State of Maryland. Senate Bill 253 addresses the need to modernize Maryland public policy in our environmental laws, in recognition of the evolving mission of APG for our national defense.

Approximately 30 years ago, Maryland enacted a series of statutes intended to protect our environment during the necessary process of the destruction of large quantities of chemical agent stored at APG. The U.S. no longer has large stockpiles of the chemical weapons that were created during the early part of the 20th century but the threat of chemical weapons has not diminished. The Maryland law enacted in the early 1990s had the support of all interested parties, and it has worked well.

Today, however, both the times and the circumstances have changed dramatically. Maryland must honor its commitment to protect the environment, and also recognize that APG is dealing with different chemical weapons threats.

The mission of APG has evolved to contemplate these new threats to our warfighters and our nation. APG is charged with collecting and studying these new hazardous materials as well as devices and technologies for the purpose of mitigating those chemical and biological threats. Their goal is straightforward: to protect our troops and assure our national defense.

Chemical weapons are constantly evolving; therefore, it is necessary that APG's vital services be performed without delay. Our warfighters and our forces deployed across the world desperately need this research to be accomplished as quickly as possible.

As a practical matter, the hazardous materials needed to be studied by APG today are in significantly smaller quantities. Therefore, the requirements of current Maryland law, which were intended to apply to the destruction of large quantities of chemical weapons, are not applicable to the research, development or demonstration of technologies using significantly smaller quantities of chemical agents.

Senate Bill 253 preserves the current statutory framework for its historic mission of destroying hazardous materials in large quantities, while making a limited exception to these requirements for the evaluation of destruction technologies if done only for research, development or demonstration purposes.

The MDRC supports this modest change in Maryland law. Because of APG's exceptional health and safety record, we are assured that the Army will conduct these activities with the safety of employees, and of the local community, foremost among its concerns.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 253.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tom Albro".

Thomas G. Albro, Chairman  
Maryland Defense Research Coalition

cc: The Honorable J.B. Jennings  
Bryson Popham, Bryson F. Popham, P.A.  
Joan Smith, MDRC Executive Director

# **SB 253\_CHS Facility Permit\_Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jennifer LaHatte

Position: FWA





Wes Moore | Governor  
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor  
Kevin Anderson | Secretary of Commerce

**DATE:** January 29, 2025  
**BILL NO:** Senate Bill 253  
**BILL TITLE:** Controlled Hazardous Substance Facility Permit - Research Facilities - Chemical Warfare Material Requirements  
**COMMITTEE:** Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
**POSITION:** Support with amendment

Senate Bill 253 modifies language in the Environment Article to provide exemptions from certain statutory restrictions on the incineration of chemical warfare material **only if** the incineration is done for research, development, or demonstration purposes at a research facility as designated by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). This legislation provides a solution to an issue noted by DoD that the current statute prevents the United States from being able to develop field-deployable technologies capable of destroying chemical weapons once recovered from enemies due to the data required in order to obtain a permit.

Commerce would like to note that the bill as introduced needs to be amended to correct what appeared to be a technical re-ordering of what is currently the new (a) under 7-239.3, but could have unintended consequences regarding what is considered to be a controlled hazardous substance (CHS) for the purposes of regulations adopted by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). Commerce has attached draft amendment language which will not alter the intent of the bill and will ensure MDE is able to uniformly apply CHS-related regulations.

The existing statute dates to 1993 when the U.S. Chemical Stockpile Elimination Program was planning the destruction of chemical weapon stockpiles stored in nine locations around the U.S., including 1,818 mustard-filled ton containers at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG). The language was written to ensure the Army had sufficient technical data and performed necessary emergency response planning with the local communities to facilitate the safe incineration of APG's stockpile. The Army instead decided in 1998 to use chemical neutralization in lieu of incineration to destroy APG's stockpile. This effort was completed in 2006.

Under the current National Defense Strategy, the DoD considers the acceleration of research, development, prototyping, and testing of new capabilities, to include Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) defense technologies, a national defense priority due to its critical role in protecting our warfighters. To protect United States citizens and troops as well as our allies, the DoD must equip U.S. troops with the capability to defeat, disable, or destroy WMD in the field. To create such capabilities, extensive DoD research and development efforts must first take place.

APG-Edgewood Area is home to the U.S. Army Chemical Biological Center (CBC) and its Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives (CBRNE) partners. The facility is a national asset for the research, development and demonstration of technologies to defend our nation against and combat chemical and biological warfare threats. APG is the world's leader in

countering threats from chemical weapons, and it is CBC's mission to provide innovative support to identify and develop technologies for use by the civilian industrial base and warfighters that defeat, disable and/or dispose of chemical weapons.

Environment Article §7-239.1 to 7-239.4 made sense for the U.S. stockpile disposal mission in 1993, however, it understandably did not consider the potentially evolving needs of the nation over time. Many of the restrictions in the law have no practical applicability to current development and testing of new thermal destruction technologies but continue to hinder the innovation process to empower our Armed Forces. CBC is evaluating at least four new thermal destruction technologies to support warfighters' requirements to destroy chemical and biological agents in tactical environments; these evaluations are at risk for delay due to the permitting requirements. The current licensing process prohibits such activity, as it requires prospective permittees to supply extensive amounts of data that are not available for the novel technologies proposed. **Senate Bill 253 makes minor updates to the statute to ensure this research can be done, while also ensuring permitting and regulatory protections stay in place.**

The U.S. Army CBC possesses unique engineering expertise to accelerate the design, prototyping and fielding of chemical agent destruction solutions, and it maintains a robust field capability to identify, remove, and destroy recovered chemical materials. CBC has robust test facilities and environmental and safety programs to support chemical agent treatment testing. The Center has a long-demonstrated history of performing safe and environmentally compliant chemical agent operations, including the destruction of Syria's declared chemical stockpile, operation of the United States' single small-scale facility, and numerous development and testing efforts of chemical weapons destruction technologies. **APG is unique as it possesses our nation's single small-scale facility, designated under the Chemical Weapons Convention as the only place in the country where chemical agents can be synthesized and stored at the quantities needed for defense research, development and testing programs.**

CBC conducts chemical agent laboratory operations daily in accredited labs that are compliant with independent quality assurance programs and participate in quality system audits. Their chemical agent defense test facilities, located on the remote test ranges at Edgewood, operate under a "layers of protection" model that never relies on a single means to protect people and the environment. This layer of protection model has a proven track record at CBC. In 2023, CBC had an OSHA Recordable Incident Rate of 0.4, well below the North American Industry Classification System average of 6.3.

For more than a century CBC and its forerunner organizations at APG have demonstrated the ability to perform chemical agent operations with robust environmental and safety programs to protect the workforce, the community and the environment. Research on new technologies will produce systems and procedures to destroy or remediate chemical agents and weapons in a safer, more expedient, and less costly manner.

Commerce respectfully requests a favorable report with amendment on Senate Bill 253.

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 253  
(First Reading File Bill)

**AMENDMENT NO.1**

On page 3, strike lines 8 through line 10, inclusively, on line 11 revert the proposed new (b) to be (a), new (c) to be (b), and substitute:

**(B) SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO THE INCINERATION OF CHEMICAL WARFARE MATERIALS AT A RESEARCH FACILITY IF THE INCINERATION IS DONE FOR RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, OR DEMONSTRATION PURPOSES.**

**Explanation:** This amendment corrects a technical error in the drafting of the bill and ensures MDE is able enforce all relevant regulations regarding controlled hazardous substances and to avoid creating any conflict with the federal hazardous waste regulatory program (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitle C).

# **SB0253 Testimony - Andrew Hinz.pdf**

Uploaded by: Andrew Hinz

Position: UNF

Testimony Opposing SB0253  
January 27, 2025

Andrew Hinz  
1427 Park Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21217  
[ahinz61@outlook.com](mailto:ahinz61@outlook.com)  
443-617-4079

Position: OPPOSE

Senators,

ANY incineration activity in our State and communities MUST comply with Federal and State pollution standards, achieve a removal efficiency of >99.9%, inform and protect areas at risk from worst case scenario releases, be undertaken only as a no-other-choice alternative, be operated transparently, and be maintained and decommissioned responsibly.

Exceptions to any of these mandatory requirements most certainly must NOT be legislated, but must only be project-specific after thorough public engagement, review, and acceptance; narrow and time-constrained; and overwhelmingly supported by factual evidence.

# **HB62 Burning Chemical Warfare waste.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ann Andrex

Position: UNF

HB62/SB253 raises many alarming questions. Why is incineration even being considered now after APG completed destruction of all of its cww using neutralization, not incineration? Why should the legislature be removing all safety guardrails on chemical warfare waste incineration in Maryland because it is for “research?” Who is behind this bill and why? If this research is done to figure out how to protect armed forces from a future attack, why does this involve unregulated incineration of chemical warfare waste in a heavily populated area like Harford County?

We need some transparency here before allowing a bill that could put Marylanders and the environment at risk without any apparent benefit.

# **SB0253\_UNF\_MedChi\_Chemical Warfare Material Requir**

Uploaded by: Ashton DeLong

Position: UNF





*The Maryland State Medical Society*  
1211 Cathedral Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201-5516  
410.539.0872  
Fax: 410.547.0915  
1.800.492.1056  
www.medchi.org

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

January 29, 2025

Senate Bill 253 – *Controlled Hazardous Substance Facility Permit – Research Facilities –  
Chemical Warfare Material Requirements*

**POSITION: OPPOSE – LETTER OF CONCERN**

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, opposes Senate Bill 253, legislation which exempts the incineration of chemical warfare materials from the requirements under a controlled hazardous substance facility permit if the incineration is done for research, development, or demonstration purposes. We understand that this bill is intended to facilitate research and development activities and the resulting incineration of chemical warfare materials at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG).

MedChi, of course, supports the elimination of chemical weaponry and the need for our military to conduct research that is important to national security. However, we are concerned that there is insufficient information and too many questions to support changing a long-standing statute intended to protect public health and the environment. The incineration of chemical warfare materials can potentially release harmful toxins into the surrounding air of a densely populated area. There is a documented history of Maryland residents opposing plans to incinerate chemical warfare materials at APG dating back to the 1990s at the time when the U.S. Military sought its chemical weapon stockpile. The community's concerns about the public health and environmental impacts of incineration at APG resulted in the Army using neutralization rather than incineration to eliminate chemical weapons.

Some of the questions MedChi believes must be satisfactorily addressed before the General Assembly approves the proposed legislation include:

- What are plans to protect persons in the most significant areas at risk from a release of a worst-case scenario?
- Will such plans be presented publicly to residents and local and State governments?
- Will the public and/or appropriate government agencies be informed about the type and quantity of materials to be incinerated?
- Have safer alternatives to incineration been considered? Have less densely populated areas been considered for these activities?
- Have the appropriate Army officials informed the Maryland Department of Health and the Department of the Environment on incineration plans at APG?

- Are there transparency measures in place to inform the public about incinerated materials and monitor data about these activities?

As currently drafted, so long as the Army and Department of Defense classify activities as “research and development,” there is a seeming carte blanche to incinerate chemical materials, perhaps putting Maryland residents at risk. Furthermore, the legislation contains no sunset date, meaning this significant change is being made in perpetuity. We caution that the General Assembly should not remove all safety guardrails before addressing critical questions and adopting transparency measures on this important issue.

Unless and until the concerns raised in this letter are addressed, we urge an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 253.

**For more information call:**

Ashton DeLong  
General Counsel

**Senate Bill 0253 January 27 2025.pdf**

Uploaded by: Elizabeth Bauer

Position: UNF

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  
8097 Geaslin Drive  
Middletown, MD 21769

# **SB0253-Controlled Haz Substance Facility Permit-UN**

Uploaded by: Elizabeth Law

Position: UNF

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: Unfavorable

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

I am deeply concerned that this bill will give the Army a pass on following the prescribed safety measures in the existing legislation. The Fiscal and Policy Note mentions that the MDE is uncertain how it might ensure proper oversight if this Bill is passed. So am I.

For seven years I have been a member of the Ft. Detrick Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). As part of CERCLA law the RAB was formed to provide transparency to local citizens regarding Ft. Detrick's mitigation of toxic substances. Area B was the depository of waste from weapons of mass destruction research activities. Much of the waste was incinerated prior to burial. Nevertheless, inappropriate handling and recording resulted in such concern of damage to the health of the local population that the site declared a National Priorities List (NPL) Superfund Site.

Maryland has some twenty NPL Superfund Sites, including Aberdeen Proving Grounds.

U.S. Military sites have a long history of acting in the interests of expediency. Later these activities lead to harm to the health of local residents, including cancer and birth defects.

I am opposed to this bill unless there is a more fulsome description of the following:

- What is so onerous to the Army about the present regulations that new legislation exempting the Army is required?
- What is the regimen that will replace the current requirements?
- If MDE's oversight role is diminished, is the EPA's role strengthened?
- Does this bill affect transparency and public information?
- What is the duration of the research? Research can go on for years and research projects can spin off the first project continuously.
- Are there going to be contractual agencies that are going to handle this research? If so what are their qualifications?

- What is the MDE's authority to terminate the research?
- How close will the research facilities be to densely populated areas, such as Wilmington Delaware, which would be affected by the westerly winds?
- What alert or alarms would be in place to warn the populace?
- Would the emissions be affected by weather conditions? Would the research be shut down in times of high winds or temperature inversions?
- Will there be monitoring of the Chesapeake Bay to see if these toxins are falling into the Bay?
- Will there be increased monitoring of the Aberdeen Proving Ground wildlife area?

The current legislation provides specified measures to ensure the public's safety. Please let the legislation stand as it is and return a decision of Unfavorable to SB0253.

Thank you,  
Elizabeth J. Law  
Ft. Detrick RAB Member  
1758 Wheyfield Dr.  
Frederick, Maryland 21701

# **SB253 testimony1.pdf**

Uploaded by: Gwen DuBois

Position: UNF





Committee: Education, Energy and the Environment

Testimony on: SB253-Controlled Hazardous Substance Facility Permit – Research Facilities – Chemical Warfare Material Requirements

Position: Unfavorable

Hearing Date: January 29,2025

*Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility (CPSR) is a statewide evidence-based organization of over 900 physicians and other health professionals and supporters that addresses existential public health threats: nuclear weapons, the climate crisis, and the issues of pollution and toxic effects on health, as seen through the intersectional lens of environmental, racial and social justice.*

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility OPPOSES SB253 in the strongest possible terms. This bill seeks to amend existing law so as to exempt from current permitting requirements chemical warfare materials incinerated at a Department of Defense (DOD) “research facility” if the DOD states that the incineration is done for “research, development, or demonstration” purposes. People in Maryland successfully opposed the incineration of chemical weapons at Edgewood Arsenal/Aberdeen Proving Ground back in the 1990’s.<sup>1</sup> Located in a densely populated part of the State. they demanded consideration of alternative ways to destroy this dangerous material that needed to be destroyed by international law. They were successful and the Army agreed to neutralization rather than incineration after a national panel agreed that would be satisfactory for the waste at Aberdeen. That work was completed in 2006.<sup>2</sup> Scientists later used neutralization to rid the world of Syria’s deadly saran gas out at sea and without incineration. The Army announced in 2023 that it had completed destruction of all chemical weapon stockpiles.<sup>3</sup>

Why we must ask is this bill being put forward that would allow incineration of chemical weapons waste in Maryland, which is dangerous and some of which is carcinogenic,<sup>4</sup> to resume without safety regulations? Some of the **exemptions include:**

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<sup>1</sup> . <https://www.baltimoresun.com/1994/02/06/panel-endorses-alternative-to-incinerator-at-aberdeen-2/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.peoacwa.army.mil/2024/10/10/facts-u-s-chemical-demilitarization-program-overview/>

<sup>3</sup> [s/Release/Article/3451920/us-completes-chemical-weapons-stockpile-destruction-operations/](https://www.defense.gov/News/Release/Article/3451920/us-completes-chemical-weapons-stockpile-destruction-operations/)

<sup>4</sup> <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb0062F.pdf>

- A. Complying with Federal and State toxic air pollution standards
- B. Achieving a destruction and removal efficiency of >99.9%
- C. Developing a plan for protecting persons in the largest area at risk from a worst-case scenario release and
- D. Presenting such a plan to the public and local effected governments
- E. Considering safer alternatives to incineration as well as moving to a less populated disposal site to create less risk of release or harm
- F. Monitoring data regularly, continuously, and reviewed by a qualified independent third party as well as reported to the Department of the Environment.
- G. Specifying in the permit the quantity of material to be incinerated which cannot be modified,
- H. Dismantling the facility according to state and federal standards once the permitted quantity of chemical weapons has been destroyed.

SB253 raises many alarming questions. Why is incineration even being considered now after APG completed destruction all of its chemical warfare waste using neutralization, not incineration? Why should the legislature remove all safety guardrails on chemical warfare waste incineration in Maryland because it is for “research?” Who is behind this bill and why? If this research is done to figure out how to protect armed forces from a future attack, why does this involve unregulated incineration of dangerous chemical warfare waste, some of which is carcinogenic, in a heavily populated area like Harford County? What does this mean for Marylanders who happen to be downwind when the incineration is happening?

We need some transparency here before allowing a bill that could put Marylanders and the environment at risk without any apparent benefit. This bill should not proceed without answers to legislators and the public to the above questions. With these serious unanswered questions, and the potentially disastrous public health consequences of incinerating chemical warfare materials in close proximity to residential areas, we strongly OPPOSE SB253 and ask for an UNFAVORABLE report.

Gwen L. DuBois MD, MPH  
President  
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility (CPSR)  
gdubois@jhsph.edu

# **SB253 - Clean Water Action - Unfavorable.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jennifer Kunze

Position: UNF



**SB253**

**Controlled Hazardous Substance Facility Permit – Research Facilities – Chemical Warfare  
Material Requirements**

**Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**

**January 29, 2025**

Position: Unfavorable

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

Clean Water Action is deeply concerned by SB253 and urges you not to pass this legislation.

SB253 exempts the incineration of chemical warfare materials at a “research facility” from specific Maryland controlled hazardous substances statutory and regulatory requirements if the incineration is done for “research, development, and demonstration” purposes. Whether a facility is designated a “research facility” for these purposes is left to the discretion of the U.S. Department of Defense, with no further checks and balances on this designation. Particularly at a moment when fundamental federal environmental and safety regulations are at risk, and leadership of the U.S. Department of Defense is in question, eliminating state-level protections in favor of unchecked federal authority on this matter has great potential to damage the health and safety of Maryland residents.

Even if the legislation provided more safeguards on its applicability than simply U.S. Department of Defense designation, the exemption would increase risk to Maryland residents from chemical warfare disposal activities. This legislation would exempt incineration of chemical warfare waste for these purposes from a number of valuable regulatory protections, including requirements to:

- comply with Federal and State toxic air pollution standards.
- achieve a destruction and removal efficiency of >99.9%.
- develop a plan for protecting persons in the largest area at risk from a worst-case-scenario release.
- present such a plan to the public and local affected governments.
- consider safer alternatives to incineration less populated alternative disposal sites to create less risk of release or harm.
- monitor data regularly, continuously, and reviewed by a qualified independent third party as well as reported to the Department of the Environment.
- specify in the permit the quantity of material to be incinerated, which cannot be modified.

- dismantle the facility according to state and federal standards once the permitted quantity of chemical warfare waste has been destroyed.

The legislature should not remove these important safety guardrails on the incineration of chemical warfare waste. Maryland residents deserve to have proposals for “research, development, and demonstration” of chemical warfare waste thoroughly vetted; now is not the time to eliminate these guardrails in favor of federal discretion.

The legislature also should make sure it understands why this bill was introduced this year. A year and a half ago in July 2023, the U.S. Department of Defense [announced](#) that “the final munition in the nation’s obsolete stockpile of chemical weapons has been safely destroyed – a disarmament milestone decades in the making.” Why is SB253 being introduced this year? Does the Department of Defense have specific “research facility” proposals in mind at military bases like Aberdeen Proving Ground, Fort Detrick, or Indian Head Navy Base that could have reduced public scrutiny and transparency if this legislation passes, and what waste might be incinerated at such facilities? Residents near potential locations of “research facilities” for the incineration of chemical warfare waste deserve answers to these questions.

Please do not pass SB253, and press for transparency around any potential for “research facilities” for the incineration of chemical warfare waste that may have motivated the legislation.

Thank you,

Jennifer Kunze  
Maryland Organizing Director  
Clean Water Action  
[jkunze@cleanwater.org](mailto:jkunze@cleanwater.org)

**SB253:HB62.2.pdf**

Uploaded by: Roberta Huber

Position: UNF

HB0062/SB0253.2

I oppose the the approval to allow chemical warfare material to be burned under any circumstances.

In 1996, as a Congressional Fellow, I willingly and successfully worked on a Congressman's behalf to obtain several million dollars in federal funds to "safely" burn pentaborane gas. The compound was not useful as jet fuel and its corroded cylinders were not moveable. This was a highly volatile compound and was acutely toxic with exposure to water. The gas, in rusting cylinders, was kept outside.

Today, with knowledge I have gained as a listener to the Fort Detrick Restoration Advisory Board meetings and eventually a member, I would have tried something else. I would have worked to convince the Congressman to go another route.

I urge you not to change the existing processes. Please use neutralization processes as previously used. I urge you not to burn these materials and put the public to any risk.

Roberta Huber

Frederick, MD

rhuber12@aol.com

**SB 253 - MDH - EEE - LOI (1).pdf**

Uploaded by: State of Maryland (MD)

Position: INFO





## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

January 29, 2025

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman  
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Re: Senate Bill (SB) 253 - Controlled Hazardous Substance Facility Permit - Research Facilities - Chemical Warfare Material Requirements - Letter of Information**

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this Letter of Information for Senate Bill (SB) 253 - Controlled Hazardous Substance Facility Permit - Research Facilities - Chemical Warfare Material Requirements

Chemical weapons neutralization and destruction requires a good deal of planning, adequate training and personal protective equipment, and medical/occupational health surveillance, as well as contingency planning for possible unusual conditions or events. The military and its contractors have experience and expertise in this area.

State and local emergency response personnel have expertise that should be utilized as research facilities conduct contingency planning for possible unusual conditions or events. Contingency planning, including timely notification procedures, should be trained and exercised with those who may respond to a given research facility during an emergency to ensure the health and safety of these individuals as well as the public.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at [sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov](mailto:sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, MD, MPH  
Secretary