

**SDCILetterInSupportOfChromite,03-13-25.pdf**

Uploaded by: Guy Guzzone

Position: FAV



FRIENDS OF  
**SOLDIERS DELIGHT**  
SERPENTINE WILDLANDS

Natural Environment Area

March 13, 2025

David Shore, Jr.  
MARYLAND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
6305 Poe Road  
Bethesda, Maryland 20817

Re: House Bill 0411 and Senate Bill 0764 to designate chromite as Maryland's state mineral

Dear Mr. Shore:

On behalf of Soldiers Delight Conservation, Inc. (SDCI), the Friends group for Soldiers Delight Natural Environment Area in Owings Mills, Maryland, I am pleased to inform you that our board of directors voted unanimously on March 22, 2017 to endorse your effort to have chromite designated Maryland's state mineral.

SDCI supports the mission and activities of the Soldiers Delight Natural Environment Area, providing funds, materials and volunteers in an advisory capacity. Its predecessor organization "The Citizens' Committee for Soldiers Delight" dates back over 73 years, when local residents raised money and urged the State to purchase and set aside the special serpentine barrens in northwestern Baltimore County near Owings Mills as a conserve. Today, Soldiers Delight encompasses more than 2,000 acres and is managed by Patapsco Valley State Park under the auspices of the Department of Natural Resources.

The Maryland General Assembly has been supportive of efforts at Soldiers Delight over the years in protecting the land and giving much of the serpentine barrens "Wildlands" status. They provided funds for a Visitor Center with exhibits and displays from which a number of public programs originate. These programs not only highlight the ecology and natural history of Soldiers Delight, but underscore how the underlying geology drives the unique ecosystem which includes so many rare and endangered plant and animal species.

As I am sure you know, the geology of the serpentine area includes historic chromite deposits, mined during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Special "Mining History" and geology hikes educate the public concerning the old chrome mines with hands-on demonstrations of historical artifacts. These events are always well-attended. Activities include "panning" for chromite sands in a sluice-like wooden trough called a "buddle," much like the local Triplett family did for the Tysons for nearly 100 years from the 1820s to the 1920s. Event participants are awed to see the inclined entrance to the old Choate chrome mine, probably the best-preserved historic mine entrance in central Maryland, where they learn of Maryland's mineral heritage and history.

It is for these reasons that we join you in urging Maryland state legislators to vote in favor of House Bill 0411 and Senate Bill 0764. Chromite has a deep heritage in Maryland, much of it centered at Soldiers Delight, as well as other serpentine barrens. We invite you and our state representatives to visit our website at <http://www.soldiersdelight.org> to learn more about Soldiers Delight and the mineral chromite.

Very truly yours,

Lynell Tobler, Vice President  
SOLDIERS DELIGHT CONSERVATION, INC.  
c/o 10012 Lyons Mill Road  
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117  
410-922-9690  
[ltobler@baronbudd.com](mailto:ltobler@baronbudd.com)

cc: SDCI secretary Jason Domasky  
LMT:hs



# **SB 764- Senator Zucker- Senate.pdf**

Uploaded by: Senator Craig Zucker

Position: FAV

**CRAIG J. ZUCKER**  
Legislative District 14  
Montgomery County



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 120  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3625  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3625  
Craig.Zucker@senate.state.md.us

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 13<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**SB0764\_DNR\_SUP\_EEE\_3-13-25.pdf**

Uploaded by: Stephen VanRyswick

Position: FAV



Wes Moore, Governor  
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor  
Josh Kurtz, Secretary  
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

---

March 13, 2025

**BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 764 - First Reader**

**SHORT TITLE: State Designations – State Mineral – Chromite (State Mineral Act)**

**DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: SUPPORT**

### **EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION**

---

The Department supports SB 764 to name Chromite the State Mineral. Chromite is a mineral found, and has a rich history, in Maryland, specifically abundant in Harford, Baltimore, Howard, and Montgomery Counties, and Baltimore City. The mines in Baltimore County and Baltimore City were the main, and at times, sole providers of Chromite in the post-colonial industrialization period. Chromite was mined in these locations until larger supplies that were more readily obtained were found. Mining for Chromite stopped in Maryland in the 1860s. Several mines are still visible in Maryland State Parks.

Initial uses of Chromite include paint creating brighter colors, however, it was then quickly used in metallurgy creating stronger, more durable, and more environmentally resistant alloys. Without Chromite, the development of steel would not have been as advanced in our nation.

The Baltimore Chrome works was founded in Fells Point, Baltimore, MD, and was the World’s premier Chrome plant through 1885.

Maryland’s varying geology yields many minerals within the State; however, no other mineral has such a unique instrumental history in post-colonial Maryland industrialization.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

---

HB 960 and SB 1002 were introduced in the 2017 legislative session to name Chromite as the State mineral, but the bills did not pass.

### **BILL EXPLANATION**

---

This bill designates Chromite as the named State Mineral.

Contact: Emily Wilson, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services (Acting)  
[emilyh.wilson@maryland.gov](mailto:emilyh.wilson@maryland.gov) ♦ 410-260-8426 (office) ♦ 443-223-1176 (cell)