

ROBERT G. CASSILLY
Harford County Executive



ROBERT S. MCCORD
Director of Administration

January 27, 2025

Delegate Marc Korman, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support on HB62 – Controlled Hazardous Substance Facility Permit – Research Facilities
– Chemical Warfare Material Requirements

Dear Chairman Korman 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 House Bill 62, are in the best interest of our nation, our state, and the citizens of Harford County. I respectfully request that the Environment and Transportation Committee report favorably on HB62.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

A blue ink signature of Robert G. Cassilly, written in a cursive style.

Robert G. Cassilly