

I support House Bill 1058 to empower Maryland's local communities to protect families by addressing unique environmental challenges. This bill acknowledges that local residents and leaders are best positioned to understand the specific issues impacting their daily lives and children's futures. By reinforcing the authority of political subdivisions to enact environmental regulations that are at least as stringent as state standards, HB 1058 fosters a proactive, community-driven approach.

Local governments are accountable to these families, witnessing firsthand the impacts of pollution and inadequate waste management. This intimate understanding compels action, providing responsiveness difficult for state agencies to match. HB 1058 enables tailored solutions; for instance, a coastal community could implement rigorous stormwater regulations to protect its fishing industry and public health. A community facing air quality issues could enact stricter emission standards to reduce respiratory illnesses.

This localized approach fosters ownership and civic engagement. Residents, empowered by their local government's ability to address their concerns, are more likely to participate in the democratic process and collaborate on solutions. HB 1058 strengthens ties between residents and their government, building a healthier future.