



March 24, 2025

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The Honorable Marc Korman, Chairman  
House Environment and Transportation Committee  
250 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Committee,

As President of the Army Alliance, I am writing in support of Senate Bill 253. Senate Bill 253 was crossfiled as House Bill 62 and heard in your Committee on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

We note, with approval, that Senate Bill 253 was extensively amended by the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to address concerns originally expressed in connection with House Bill 62. Those concerns placed a focus on the health and safety of residents located in the Edgewood area, which is part of the federal Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG). To our knowledge, all concerns expressed in connection with this legislation have been fully addressed in the amendments adopted by the Senate.

The Army Alliance was established in 1999 and exists for the sole purpose of supporting the mission of APG before both State and federal public officials. APG is both a major military installation and a national asset in our State. It is the largest employer in both Harford County and Northeastern Maryland.

As we previously testified during the hearing on House Bill 62, current environmental laws were enacted in Maryland in 1993 to govern the destruction of a stockpile of chemical weapons that had been present at APG for many decades. Today the mission has changed, and APG must analyze small amounts of hazardous materials to assist the Army in developing appropriate countermeasures for use in hostile tactical environments around the world. The changes proposed in this legislation permit the Army to act expeditiously in carrying out this mission, while addressing the safety concerns of Maryland policy makers. The U.S. Army has worked closely with our Department of the Environment to accomplish this goal, and we are pleased that Governor Moore has made this legislation a priority by having his Department of Commerce bring it forward.

In the belief that all concerns have been properly addressed, we respectfully request a favorable report from your Committee on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Mike Ray  
President, Army Alliance

cc: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman  
Tom Albro, President, MDRC