

**Testimony in Support of HB1058 - The Emission Standards, Ambient Air Quality Standards, and Solid Waste Management - Local Authority**

February 24, 2025

**To:** Environment and Transportation Committee

**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB1058 - The Emission Standards, Ambient Air Quality Standards, and Solid Waste Management - Local Authority

**Position:** **Favorable**

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

I am submitting testimony in support of HB1058 - Emission Standards, Ambient Air Quality Standards, and Solid Waste Management - Local Authority. I am in favor of this legislation because it will clarify and correct language in current state law, and will allow local Maryland communities to enact air pollution and waste management laws for their municipal or county jurisdictions that are stronger and more protective than federal and state legal provisions.

Though federal and state environmental laws already authorize this, these rights have been questioned in federal courts, and environmental regulations are under threat during the current federal administration. This bill would add more clarity to state law so that counties and municipalities can set their own safeguards to best protect the health and safety of their residents and appropriately address local environmental challenges.

Current state law contains some unclear wording that has led to questioning of local authority to enact appropriate legislation, putting local air quality at risk. This bill will rectify the confusion, and better clarify local jurisdictions' authority to act.

Local residents have a right to weigh in on their community needs, and they know their local challenges best. This bill will help give them the ability to so act on their own behalf.

Please give a favorable vote to HB1058.

Sincerely,

Tom Taylor  
11-G Laurel Hill Road  
Greenbelt, MD 20770  
301-513-9524