

**Committee:** Environment and Transportation  
**Testimony on:** HB1058 Emission Standards, Ambient Air Quality Standards, and Solid Waste Management - Local Authority  
**Submitting:** Dave Arndt  
**Position:** Favorable  
**Hearing Date:** Feb. 26, 2025

Dear Mr. Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of HB1058. I urge you to vote favorably on HB1058.

In 2019, Baltimore City Council unanimously adopted the Baltimore Clean Air Act, designed to force the cleanup or closure of two major waste incinerators in our city: the trash incinerator in Westport (our biggest air polluter), and the medical waste incinerator in Curtis Bay (largest in the nation, importing waste from 20 states and Canada). Unfortunately, a federal District Court judge struck down the city's law on the basis of preemption -- even though federal and state law make it clear that local governments DO have the power to have clean air laws as strict or stricter than the state and federal minimums.

Although, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) can and often does institute regulations that are stricter than the Federal regulations. There are many local communities that want to protect their residents from pollution beyond current MDE regulation.

HB1058 is a legislative solution to the Federal court decision that overrode local government controls on stricter pollution regulations. This bill is to clarify that the legislature through past legislation, indeed intended to allow local governments to protect their air quality with local laws at least as strict as the state. To protect our communities and to codify current Maryland Environmental laws, especially with the current Federal administration dismantling or not enforcing current EPA regulation, we need to act now.

For all of these reasons, I strongly support HB1058 and urge a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.

Dave Arndt  
Co-Chair Maryland Legislative Coalition – Climate Justice Wing