

February 24, 2025

HB1058 –The Emission Standards, Ambient Air Quality Standards, and Solid Waste Management Local Authority Bill

COMMITTEE - Environment and Transportation

Testimony on HB1058

POSITION – FAVORABLE

Hearing Date – February 26, 2025

Dear members of the Environment and Transportation Committees,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1058.

After learning about a project that could potentially cause environmental harm and jeopardize the health of citizens in a Maryland county if an air quality permit is approved by the Maryland Department of the Environment, it has come to my attention that citizens need to be able to have more protection available to them from our counties and municipal governments than the state and federal minimums in place.

A new NASA air pollution monitoring tool shows that Howard County has some of the most polluted air in Maryland.

Link to the NASA air pollution monitoring tool -

<https://www.nasa.gov/news-release/nasa-shares-first-images-from-us-pollution-monitoring-instrument/>

Howard, and all Maryland counties, should have the right to strengthen their air pollution controls.

If passed, HB 1058 would give Maryland counties and municipalities the authority they need to safeguard their local environment and community's health as they find necessary and appropriate in certain instances, and that may offer more protection than state and federal regulations.

As there is no guarantee that any current federal environmental regulations and protections will continue to remain in place, it is increasingly crucial that our local governments have the tools and authority they need to protect their residents and local environments. Now is the time for Maryland, Maryland counties, and local

municipalities to strengthen our laws that protect our air and water, and citizen's health.

I urge you to please vote in favor of HB 1058.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sharon Boies

Columbia, MD

Protect Our Streams