



**Testimony Supporting HB1484
House Environment and Transportation Committee
March 11, 2025**

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Committee,

I am pleased to submit testimony in support of HB1484, and specifically to address concerns that were raised during the recent Senate hearing regarding the companion bill (SB0978). My name is Keeve Nachman, PhD, MHS, and I am the Robert S. Lawrence Professor of Environmental Health and Engineering at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. I am the Associate Director of the Center for a Livable Future and was formerly the Co-Director of the Johns Hopkins Risk Sciences and Public Policy Institute. For more than 20 years, I have been engaged in researching and teaching human health risk assessment and the public health implications of agriculture. I have published many peer-reviewed journal articles concerning these topics in high-impact scientific journals, including epidemiologic and other public health studies concerning concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). I submit this letter as the formal position of the Center for a Livable Future.

I am writing to express my support for HB1484/SB0978, and to highlight the importance of retaining CAFOs as covered projects in the bill. There is a sizable and growing literature documenting that CAFOs release an array of different types of pollution into their surrounding environments that can threaten public health.

These industrial farms have been shown to emit an array of air pollutants, including airborne particulate matter, odors and gases like ammonia (which can be released in large quantities from poultry CAFOs), and biological agents (like antibiotic-resistant bacteria capable of causing dangerous infections in people). These hazards are generated by the animals and their waste, feed and manure storage, and manure application. Further, wind carries many of these airborne agents off-site onto neighboring properties, where fenceline communities can breathe them and get sick. Published research has shown that noxious odors from CAFOs interfere with daily activities, quality of life, social gatherings, and community cohesion and contribute to stress and increases in blood pressure. I co-authored a research study that concluded living in closer proximity to multiple larger poultry CAFOs was associated with increased risk of community acquired pneumonia.

Considering their spectrum of hazardous chemical and biological releases and the potential health risks they pose for fenceline communities, CAFOs are precisely what is intended by the spirit of the bill and must be considered "covered projects".

During the senate hearing on February 25, Senator Carozza raised concerns about the burden that the bill would impose on small *family* poultry farmers. It is critical to highlight



that the bill intends to help the state protect *families* – some of whom are among Maryland’s most vulnerable – from the cumulative burden of pollution and other stressors that are largely beyond their control.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Keeve E. Nachman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Keeve E. Nachman, PhD, MHS (he/his)
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