

Testimony Supporting SB0781
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
March 3, 2026

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

As a resident of Baltimore City and a professional in the Natural Resources field, I am writing to express my strong support of SB0781, the CHERISH Our Communities Act applying to MDE-issued permits.

I live within a mile of multiple significant air pollution sources, including the Baltimore Wheelabrator Municipal Waste Combustor, I-95, Domino Sugars, and other industrial facilities. I know that the air quality where I live is impacted by these sources, based on the smells and air quality data I observe in my home and on my commute to work. I am concerned that, without this bill, more polluting industry could be built in my community and others like it around the state. This bill's consideration of cumulative impacts is critical to protecting the health of myself and other Marylanders in vulnerable communities, and begins to right the many historical wrongs of environmental racism. MDE should be required to consider the existing conditions of a community and prioritize public input above polluter's interests. I strongly support this bill and its counterparts in the CHERISH Our Communities ACT.