

Gregory Sliviak

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Senate Bills 0780 and 0781 – SUPPORT

Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity - BURDEN Analysis (SB 0780)

**And Environmental Permits - Requirements for Burden Analysis, Issuance and
Renewal, and Public Participation (Cumulative Harms for Environmental Restoration
for Improving Shared Health (SB 0781)**

(CHERISH Our Communities Act)

Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gregory Sliviak. I am a resident of rock creek. I am a second generation union Ironworker. I've spent my career erecting steel in and around Baltimore city and Maryland throughout the late 70s until 2007. I worked on Convention centers, stadiums, hotels and numerous high rises. On the weekends, I worked on almost every chemical plant in Balt. as well as many hours in Sparrows Point steel mill. I have witnessed many environmental atrocities and violations. Most plants have a discharge pipe running directly into the bay. There are way too many pollutants to name them all. Allied Chemical in Balt city was one of the largest. In operation for over 150 years they dumped chromium and arsenic and many other poisons into many areas of the harbor. Some of these contaminants were used as fill dirt under parking lots and sidewalks still used today. Some employees had holes through the middle of their nose to which they received a \$5000.00 check. A few times after working on weekends my shoes would get wet and fall apart during the week. This was just from walking in various powders around the plants. These dusts were always airborne and washed away in runoff as well. It has always been cheaper to pay fines than remediate the problem. One time I witnessed Greenpeace pull up to the sludge pond at Sparrows Point steel mill and pump the sludge onto Bethlehem Blvd to prove a point before they were arrested by the Coastguard. Sparrows Point was the largest steel mill in the United States. Under every giant mill building is a trough or pipe leading to the first sludge pond. Then it was pumped up hill to a holding dike-pond until it was higher than high tide in the bay. Then a 12 ft. overflow pipe spilled the contamination into the bay 24 hours a day. I also witnessed a barge of 55 gal drums full of PCBs being dumped into the bay. Once I was working at Brandon Shores during nightshift I overheard a foreman laughing when he told a coworker to burn out the stacks after dark because it would look like a giant mushroom cloud and would cause a stir. I have witnessed many things first hand and I am certain

every river in this upper Chesapeake Bay has its own unique set of poison sediments. Some are semi-contained by years of sediments. Most area residents don't know there are limits on how many crabs you should eat and also fish because of pollutants. Watermen have had amputations and some have died of infections from rockfish! I really appreciate anyone taking the time to read this, and I plead we do not go backwards in protecting our environment.

Anne Arundel County and the surrounding area cannot take any further degradation of the environment, which includes the air, soil and waterways!

Senate Bills SB 0780 and SB 0781 proposed in this legislative session will create the necessary regulatory infrastructure to implement a measured and cost-effective approach to correcting the burden of cumulative pollution in Maryland's most overburdened communities and it will give overburdened communities a voice in the process.

I strongly support SB 0780 and SB 0781.

Sincerely,

Gregory Sliviak

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Rock Creek

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