

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

As a resident of South Baltimore and a Sustainable and Urban Environmental Engineering student at Morgan State University, I am writing to express my strong support of SB0780, the CHERISH Our Communities Act applying to CPCNs for polluting energy generation. The community I live in, Lakeland, is located just a mile away from some of these heavily polluting sites, putting me, my family, and my neighbors at constant risk of exposure to hazardous air pollution, including particulate matter, volatile organic compounds, and other toxic emissions. These pollutants are known to contribute to respiratory diseases, heart conditions, and other long-term health complications, making it even harder for the members of my community to live out their lives as healthfully as possible.

The impacts of this pollution extend beyond our health; they directly interfere with our daily lives. Many of my peers struggle with asthma and other respiratory illnesses, conditions that are only exacerbated by the heavy industrial pollution surrounding our school. Instead of enjoying clean air and a healthy community, we are forced to navigate an environment that threatens our well-being. The CHERISH Our Communities Act is essential to addressing these injustices by placing stronger environmental protections in place and ensuring that the voices of impacted communities are heard. I urge you to support SB0780 and take a stand for the health, safety, and future of residents like me and my neighbors, who deserve to grow up and live in an environment free from toxic pollution.

Sincerely,

Jose Alvarenga