

Ruth 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 Ruth Sliviak and I have been a resident of Anne Arundel for over 12 years. We built our dream home on Rock Creek. Our home property backs up to Weinberg Park. We enjoy seeing all the wildlife and beautiful water views but not the black soot that seems to stick to all outdoor surfaces or the air quality at times because of what is being expelled into the air from the various industrial areas that are within a few miles of our home via air.

I have major concerns about all of the industrial polluters that are currently operating in our area and the legacy pollution that has contaminated our waterways, the air that we breathe and the ground that we build and live on. The exterior of our home, patio's, decks and windows develop a black substance that is very difficult to remove and having resided in the Maryland area our entire life we have never seen this anywhere else. The stacks at Brandon Shores emit black smoke and this past summer there was a sticky black residue with particles that adhered to surfaces all over the area. We have never received final communication about what that substance might have been let alone the dangers of breathing it. We have Grace Chemical, Glidden Paint, Brandon Shores Coal burning Generating Station and Medical Wastes incinerators just to name a few of the active polluters in the area. The legacy chemicals that have been illegally dumped in our water ways and land continue to pollute our area. We can't keep on piling on the pollutants and endangering our health as well as the environment. There needs to be regulatory controls on the amounts and kinds of pollution that can be generated in overburdened areas of our state.

We need to have the very best available technology to make sure the current polluters are protecting us to the best of their ability and not just in the best interest of the bottom line.

When we built our home there were all sorts of requirements with regard to our septic system, it had to be monitored and the BAT (Best available Technology) which of course came at a cost that we were “happy” to pay to protect our ground and water ways. It certainly seems fair that the large profitable organizations should have the same strict requirements let alone limit more being put into our area.

I support this bill so that not only my health and safety are protected but the health and safety of my children, grandchildren and generations to follow. We need to make sure our community is a safe and healthy place to live, work and recreate. We invested in our home and the thought of our property value being negatively impacted because of the polluters is infuriating.

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,

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