

Testimony Supporting SBs 0780/0781
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
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Position: SUPPORT

Members of the Committee,

As a Baltimore City resident I urge you to pass SBs 780 and 781, The CHERISH OUR COMMUNITIES ACT OF 2026.

It is common sense and good government that the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) SB341 are allowed by law to consider additional environmental factors when issuing pollution permits in communities already hosting polluting facilities and struggling for economic and environmental parity with the rest of the state—the question is why it took so long for this bill to be introduced.

As far as funding for the additional MDE and PSC staff required to do the additional analysis and enhanced decision-making, RGGI should be explicitly tapped for the needed money if no other source is available.