

February 27, 2026

Testimony on: SB781 – CHERISH Our Communities Act

Submitting: Casandra De Leon Cabrera

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: March 3, 2026

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Cassandra de Leon, and I have been a resident of Hattsville District 47 for the past 16 years. I am a high school student in Prince George's County, and I am deeply committed to advocating for environmental justice and healthier communities.

I am writing today in strong support of SB781- CHERISH Our Communities Act because this legislation is personal to me and my neighborhood. We have poor air quality. Too often, families like mine live in neighborhoods already burdened by pollution, yet we continue to face new environmental risks without adequate protections.

Communities like ours have been overlooked for too long. We are exposed to multiple sources of pollution that accumulate over time and create serious health risks for children and neighbors. CHERISH Our Communities Act is a critical step toward ensuring that Maryland fully considers the cumulative impacts of pollution when reviewing permits and making decisions that affect our communities.

By supporting this bill, you are helping protect families who are already facing environmental and health challenges. You are also taking an important step toward ensuring that every Maryland child, regardless of their zip code, has the opportunity to grow up in a safe and healthy environment.

I respectfully urge you to support SB781 and stand with families like mine who deserve clean air, healthier neighborhoods, and stronger protections for our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Casandra De Leon Cabrera