

Written Testimony

Bill: **SB0781**

Position: **FAV**

February 27, 2026

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee:

As a concerned resident of Baltimore City, I am writing to express my strong support of SB0781, the CHERISH Our Communities Act applying to MDE-issued permits. Many residential areas are in close proximity to industrial areas or facilities that pollute their environment, despite the best efforts of zoning laws. We have seen time and again communities become “sacrifice zones,” bearing more than their share of degradation and pollution.

Currently, nearby communities have no opportunity to give public comment on several types of permits to pollute, including more than half of air pollution permits. The CHERISH Our Communities Act will ensure public participation in the process and fix this longstanding environmental injustice. It is also targeted in both scope and geography and applies only to parts of the state that are so burdened by disproportionate pollution.

I urge the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to issue a favorable report on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

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