

HB0517_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

02/18/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
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TESTIMONY ON HB#0517 – FAVORABLE

Emission Standards, Ambient Air Quality Standards, and Solid Waste Management - Local Authority

TO: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#0517, Emission Standards, Ambient Air Quality Standards, and Solid Waste Management - Local Authority

This bill will give local jurisdictions within Maryland more power locally in decisions that prior to the bill were dictated by the Maryland Department of the Environment. It will deal with air quality and water and sewerage governance as more of a local than a state-controlled dictate.

This bill will alter provisions of law relating to the authority of a political subdivision to adopt ordinances, rules, or regulations that set emission standards or ambient air quality standards under certain conditions; specifying that the requirement for the Department of the Environment to approve a county water and sewerage plan does not limit certain authority of the county; requiring the Department to publish certain information on its website by October 1, 2026; etc.

The General Assembly can use the data in the published reporting to draft legislation to address any issues uncovered during the process.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass HB0517.