

Charlie Cooper

2359 Nutmeg Terrace

Baltimore, MD 21209

Testimony in Support of HB 517 – Emission Standards, Ambient Air Quality Standards, and Solid Waste Management - Local Authority

To the Environment and Transportation Committee

February 18, 2026

Dear Chair Korman and members of the Committee. I am writing as a resident of Baltimore City. I have been working with residents of South Baltimore for several years as they attempt to eliminate pollution from incineration of trash in their neighborhoods. I have seen bright, energetic, and determined residents, including young people, working to improve their communities.

House Bill 517 would clarify what I would interpret as the original intent of three sections of the Environment Article to allow local subdivisions and municipalities to enact strict environmental controls for the benefit of their residents. Resistance by polluters has created some question as to the original intent. Please issue a favorable report on HB 517 to allow local governments to protect the people they serve.