

Written Testimony in Support of HB 517
Submitted by: Jennifer Robin
Clarksville, Maryland Resident
Maryland State Legislature
Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Dear Chairperson, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a concerned resident of Clarksville, Maryland, to strongly urge you **to support and pass HB 517**, which clarifies and corrects language in Maryland law to affirm the authority of counties and municipalities to adopt air pollution and waste management standards that are more protective than federal and state minimums. I am **in favor of passing bill HB 517**.

Although both federal and state environmental laws have long authorized local governments to enact stronger protections—under the Clean Air Act since 1970 and under Maryland law since 1957—ambiguities in current statutory wording have led to legal challenges that put local clean air laws at risk. HB 517 resolves these inconsistencies to ensure that local jurisdictions can confidently fulfill their responsibility to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of their residents.

This authority has existed for more than 50 years without creating regulatory chaos or widespread conflicts among local laws. At a time when federal environmental protections face increasing uncertainty, it is essential that Maryland's local governments retain clear authority to respond to local conditions and protect the air quality and well-being of their communities. I urge you to vote in favor of this bill to safeguard our air, water, and communities for future generations. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Robin
Clarksville, Maryland Resident
Stop Grace Team