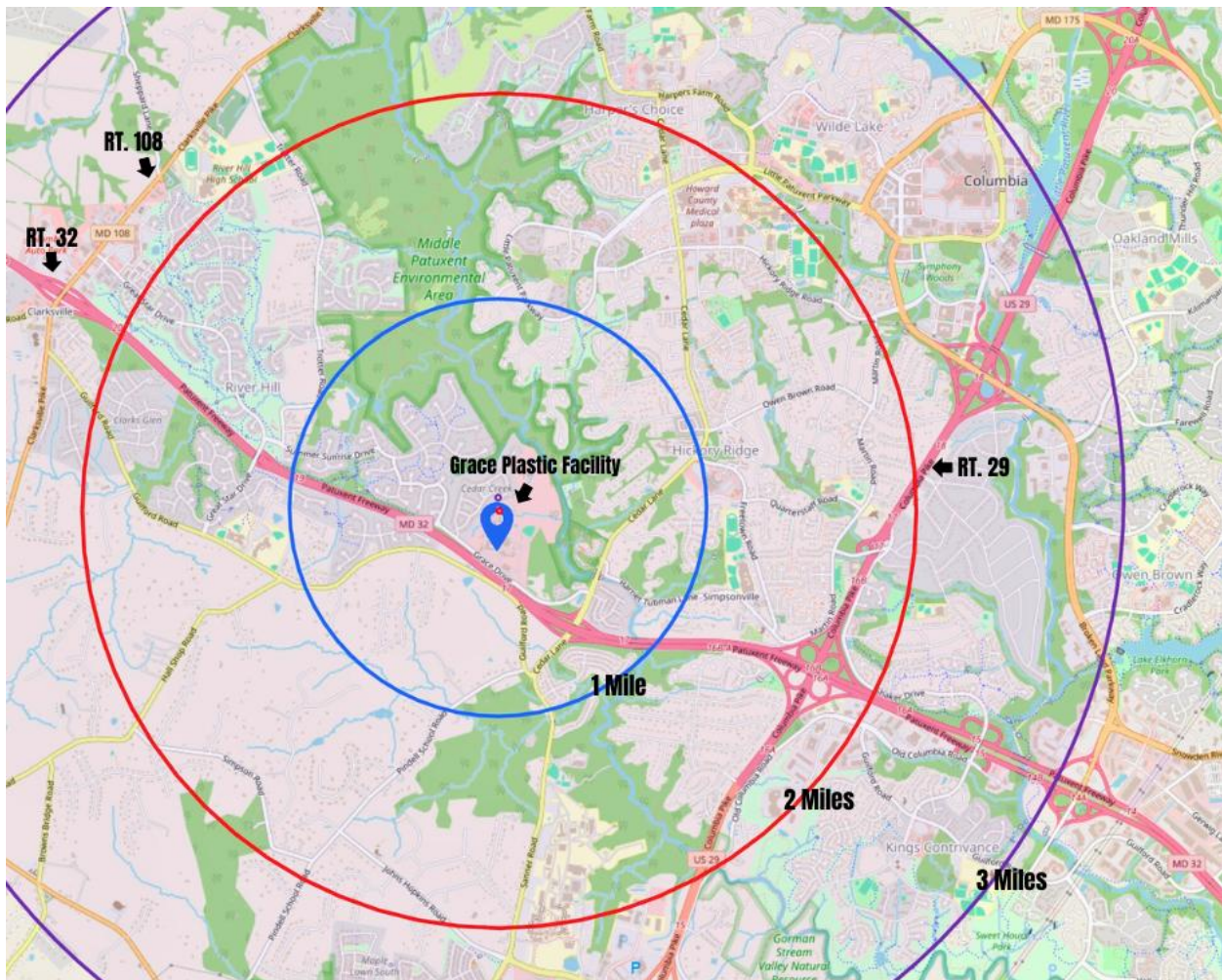


## Testimony of Lisa Krausz

### In Support of HB 517 - The Emission Standards, Ambient Air Quality Standards, and Solid Waste Management - Local Authority

February 16, 2026

My name is Lisa Krausz. I am a resident of River Hill Village in Clarksville, Maryland. Currently, I am serving as the co-facilitator of the Stop Grace Coalition ([stopgraceplasticpermit.my.canva.site](http://stopgraceplasticpermit.my.canva.site)). Our group is working to protect Howard County's clean air from the polluting impacts of "chemical recycling" (or the process of heating plastics up to high temperatures - which is defined as incineration by the EPA). I am urging a favorable report from the Committee concerning HB 517 and here is why.



Right now, Howard County residents are facing a fight to stop chemical recycling from moving forward in their community. The Stop Grace Coalition has over 1500 petition signers opposing a soon-to-be-operational plastic pyrolysis pilot facility in their community. Please see the attached map which shows the location of the pilot project – which will be located less than a football field

away from homes in the Cedar Creek neighborhood, a truly diverse community with countless families and school children living there.

While the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has approved this project, and fought local residents in a permit challenge before a judge on January 16<sup>th</sup> of this year (the decision of which is still pending), it is clear that Howard County residents do not want this technology in their community. Unfortunately, residents lack adequate legal tools for mounting a stronger case against this facility.

HB 517 will provide counties with stronger tools to fight polluting projects in their communities and to protect the health of their residents as well as their environment. Specifically, HB 517 will clarify and correct language in current state law to empower Marylanders to create local air pollution and waste management laws for their county/municipal jurisdictions that are more protective than federal and state minimums.

While federal and state environmental laws already authorize this, these rights have been questioned in federal courts. This bill would make state law more clear so that counties and municipalities can fulfill their duties to safeguard public and environmental health.

Under the current Federal Administration, environmental regulations (that the state typically follows) are under significant attack. It's shocking how hard-won gains can be wiped out so quickly, so it is more important than ever that our local governments have the power to protect their residents when the state is slow to act.

Please support HB 517 and clarify the law so that Marylanders can get the protections we deserve.