



Testimony on: [HB0517](#) – Emission Standards, Ambient Air Quality Standards, and Solid Waste Management - Local Authority

Sponsor: Delegate Terrasa

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Organization: Less Plastic Please, Indivisible Howard County & HoCo Climate Action

Submitting: Liz Feighner

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 18, 2026

[Less Plastic Please](#) is a Howard County based grassroots organization representing more than 200 subscribers. We work closely with the [Zero Waste Team](#) of [Howard County Sierra Club](#) and are a [Beyond Plastics](#) Affiliate. Reducing the production of plastics and creating a zero-waste economy is one of our top concerns. [Indivisible Howard County](#) represents 1700+ members and is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). [HoCo Climate Action](#) is a [350.org](#) local chapter and a grassroots organization representing approximately 1,400 subscribers. It is also a member of the [Climate Justice Wing](#) of the [Maryland Legislative Coalition](#).

Our organizations support **HB0517** which will clarify and correct language in current state law that will 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. Maryland residents need to be able to have more say in the quality of the air they breathe!

HB0517 is a legislative solution to the Federal court decision that overrode local government controls on stricter pollution regulations. A federal District Court judge struck down Baltimore's Clean Air Act on the basis of preemption -- even though federal and state law make it clear that local governments DO have the power to have clean air laws as strict or stricter than the state and federal minimums.

To protect our communities and to codify current Maryland Environmental laws, especially with the current Federal administration dismantling or not enforcing current EPA regulation, we need to act now.

We urge a **favorable report for HB0517**.

Submitted by Liz Feighner

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