

## **Written Testimony in Favor of HB 1360 - Maryland Public Ethics Law - Regulated Lobbyists - Reporting Requirements**

March 4, 2026

I am submitting written testimony in support of HB 1360. As a voter who actively follows legislation in the Maryland General Assembly, I think this bill brings much needed transparency and accountability to the lobbying process in the General Assembly.

A report by the research and advocacy organization F Minus stated: “Poor compliance with Maryland’s already weak disclosure requirements is obscuring the extent to which firms are taking contradictory stances on climate issues on behalf of different clients.”

I believe that HB 1360 is common-sense legislation that would help solve the following problems with Maryland's lobbyist disclosure system:

- **Absence of timely disclosure:** Maryland currently does not require lobbyists to disclose what bills they are engaging with while the General Assembly is actually in session. HB 1360 would fix this by adding two in-session activity reports to be filed by lobbyists.
- **Noncompliance with disclosure requirements:** By adding in-session activity reports, HB 1360 also will make it easier for the public and the Ethics Commission to identify instances of non-disclosure during session, and for the Commission to direct lobbyists to file corrected reports during session.
- **Non-disclosure of positions taken on legislation:** Lobbyists sometimes lobby for and against the same bills on behalf of different clients. By requiring lobbyists to disclose the positions they take on bills, HB 1360 will empower both the public and lobbyists' clients to track what lobbyists are doing on behalf of each client, and identify instances in which clients' different interests may conflict.

I urge a favorable report on HB 1360. With the many substantial issues facing the state, Maryland residents need and deserve a more fully accountable and transparent disclosure system. This will help me be a better advocate for sound legislation that benefits all Marylanders.

Sincerely,

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