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VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Senate Bill 151

Dear Chairman Smith:

This letter is written on behalf of the Maryland Industrial Technology Alliance (“MITA”), a non-profit trade association representing more than 20 industrial, manufacturing and supporting businesses **opposing Senate Bill 151**, which would amend the Maryland Constitution to create environmental rights and allow the State, local governments, and any person to enforce those rights through litigation. MITA opposes this legislation for the following reasons:

- **Unnecessary.** The State and federal government have implemented a robust suite of laws to protect the public from environmental risks, ranging from air emissions to chemicals, and under current statute the Attorney General, local governments, and individuals have authority to ensure those laws are enforced. There is no need to create a separate and amorphous set of environmental rights when these regulatory systems are in place to provide well targeted protections against environmental harm.
- **Substantially increases litigation risk.** SB 873 allows any “person” to enforce environmental rights against any “public party” through “appropriate legal proceedings.” These rights include everything from a right to a “stable climate” to preserving “ecological, scenic, and historic values of the environment.” These rights are broad, highly subjective, and unconstrained, creating virtually unlimited risk of litigation. This would have a significant chilling effect on virtually all regulated activities in the State.

For these reasons, MITA respectfully requests that you give Senate Bill 151 an **Unfavorable Report.**

Very truly yours,

/s/

Todd R. Chason

cc: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee Members