



---

02/06/2023

Stephanie Compton  
2936 Wyman Pkwy.  
Baltimore, MD 21211

**Testimony Supporting HB0161**

**House Environment & Transportation Committee**

**February 8, 2023**

**Position: SUPPORT**

As a Baltimore City resident living with 2 incinerators in my city, the BRESCO/Wheelabrator trash incinerator and the Curtis Bay medical waste incinerator, I am writing to express my support for the HB161, the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority Sunset Act, sponsored by Delegates Korman and Szeliga. This legislation tasks the Department of Legislative Services with conducting an evaluation of the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority, a basic good-government step recommended for all such quasi-governmental agencies by the State Transparency and Accountability Review Commission in 2021. Since we do not want to see any new trash incinerators built in Maryland, and since other business conducted by the Waste Disposal Authority is duplicative of other quasi-governmental agencies, it makes sense for the state to evaluate this agency and carefully consider what are the right steps for its future.

For the past 8 years I've been involved with the work to shut down the BRESCO trash incinerator. I understand that the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority approves these waste incinerator contracts into existence. We do not need to continue having such an "authority" that is not in alignment with the Environmental Justice Communities experiencing Environmental Racism from trash incineration. These communities demand sustainable waste management systems like zero waste, which has no room for burning trash.

The State Transparency and Accountability Review Commission recommended that every quasi-governmental agency (QGA) receive periodic reviews at least every eight years, which has not happened. The Commission recommended that these reviews consider questions like:

- Is there still a need for this QGA?
- Is this QGA continuing to fulfill legislative intent?
- Should this agency continue as a QGA?
- Should this agency move back to a governmental agency?
- Has this agency operated with transparency and accountability?

This legislation implements this recommendation, a basic good-government measure. For all of these reasons, please pass the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority Sunset Act, so that the Department of Legislative Services may conduct this valuable review and the legislature can consider its findings in 2025.

Sincerely,  
Stephanie Compton