



February 23, 2026

Public Health & Environment Committee  
c/o Councilwoman Phylcia R.L. Porter  
100 N. Holliday St  
Baltimore, MD 21202

**Re: LO25-0017 Zero Waste**

Dear Councilwoman Porter and the Public Health & Environment Committee,

I am writing in strong support of a comprehensive assessment of zero-waste initiatives in Baltimore City. Our communities, specifically Westport, bears a disproportionate burden as the host of a major trash incinerator that not only services the city of Baltimore but also surrounding counties and neighboring states.

This facility, which opened in 1985, has significant impacts on local air quality and respiratory health. Its impact can be reduced through strategic waste reduction efforts. To make lasting changes, we must prioritize education and community engagement, beginning with our youngest residents. Properly educating Baltimore's K-12 students on proper waste disposal and the principles of reduction, reuse, and recycle will not only build lifelong habits but will also contribute to measurable improvements in environmental health outcomes. By empowering students with the knowledge and tools to divert waste from the incinerator, we can combat pollution at its source. I also strongly recommend that this study include strategies for partnering with well-known and respected local voices such as Hip Hop artists, radio DJs, social media influencers, and other Baltimore cultural leaders whom young people admire and follow. Whether through in-person school visits, public service announcements via billboards and bus stop ads, or multimedia campaigns, these influencers can make waste reduction relatable, actionable, and inspiring. The assessment should include how to re-educate adults that throwing trash on streets, corners, and alleys instead of waiting to approach a trash can is harmful and illegal and can result in large fines.

Thank you for considering this important initiative. I am certain that with meaningful investment and community collaboration, Baltimore can become a model for equitable and effective zero-waste action.

Sincerely,

*Keisha Allen*

**Keisha Allen, President**

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cc: Councilwoman Phylcia R.L. Porter, District 10  
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