

Brenda Bratton Blom, J.D., PhD  
Law School Professor Emeritus  
University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law  
[bblom@law.umaryland.edu](mailto:bblom@law.umaryland.edu), 443-804-8441

June 14, 2022

To Members of the Baltimore City Council:

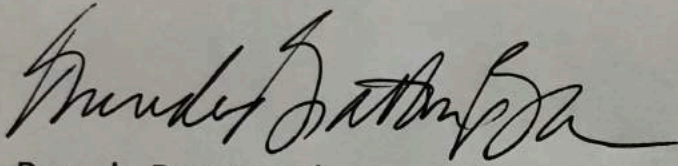
I write to support efforts that might be undertaken by the Baltimore City Council to support residents of the Curtis Bay Association and the Baltimore Community Land Trust to find out more about the explosion at the CSX coal terminal. It is always critical to get to the bottom of industrial accidents. But it is even more important when those accidents occur where citizens reside.

I was part of the team that represented the community organizations in Fairfield and Wagner's Point as they worked to envision a future for themselves that would allow health and well-being to be at the forefront of their goals. This was not easy. While no studies could be conclusive, the residents themselves knew that the effect of the toxins in their air and water was a high cancer rate. Not only that, but the value of their property was also severely restricted because of the ongoing toxic air and water pollution. When you added the occasional explosion to the mix, resident knew that they found themselves in a place where they were in harm's way.

Baltimore could do better – and DID! Partnering with other levels of government, residents were able to relocate to safer and less immediately toxic locations of their choice.

I urge the City Council to listen carefully to the testimony presented, and to put the safety and well-being of the residents above any calls that the task of guaranteeing safety (from both explosions and toxic air) for the resident is too complicated and not your problem. I urge you to INVESTIGATE, and then INVEST! In the truth and in finding alternatives. Answers to complex problems are not easy. But then... that is what you signed up for!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brenda Bratton Blom". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Brenda Bratton Blom