**Instructions for Submitting Written Testimony**

Submitting written testimony is a critical way to influence legislation and share your unique perspective with lawmakers. Use this template to craft your testimony, following these steps:

1. **Provide Your Contact Information**: Include your name, address, phone number, and email.
2. **Identify the Bill**: Clearly state the bill number and title.
3. **Specify Your Position**: Indicate whether you support, oppose, or are neutral on the bill.
4. **Introduce Yourself**: Briefly explain who you are and your connection to the issue.
5. **Explain the Bill’s Impact**: Provide specific examples, personal stories, or data to illustrate why the bill matters.
6. **Address Counterarguments**: Refute common objections to strengthen your position.
7. **Call to Action**: Request specific action from the legislators.
8. **Thank the Legislators**: Express appreciation for their time and consideration.

Ensure your testimony is concise, well-organized, and respectful. Save your document as a PDF and submit it according to the committee’s guidelines.

**Written Testimony Template**

[Your Name]
[Your Address]
[City, State, ZIP Code]
[Email Address]
[Phone Number]
[Date]

**Testimony in [Support/Opposition] of [Bill Number and Title]**

**To:** [Committee Name, e.g., Environment and Transportation Committee]
**From:** [Your Name]

Dear Chair [Chair’s Last Name], Vice Chair [Vice Chair’s Last Name], and Members of the [Committee Name],

My name is [Your Name], and I am a resident of [City/Town, Maryland]. I am writing to express my [support/opposition] for [Bill Number and Title], which [brief description of the bill’s purpose, e.g., seeks to protect Maryland’s farmland from harmful development projects].

**Personal Introduction**
[Introduce yourself and your connection to the issue. For example: “As a farmer in [County], I have seen firsthand the devastating impacts that poorly planned projects can have on our land and livelihoods.”]

**Impact of the Bill**
[Provide 1-3 paragraphs explaining how the bill will affect you, your family, or your community. Share specific examples, personal stories, or data that support your position.]

**Addressing Counterarguments**
[Briefly acknowledge potential objections to the bill and explain why they are outweighed by the benefits or why they are unfounded.]

**Call to Action**
I respectfully urge you to [support/oppose] [Bill Number and Title] and to advocate for its passage to [achieve specific outcomes, e.g., preserve our farmland and protect Maryland’s natural heritage].

**Closing and Thank You**
Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me at [your email or phone number]. I appreciate your dedication to serving our community and look forward to seeing your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]