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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Baltimore City 10th District Council Candidate Decries Federal Court Ruling Striking Down Baltimore Clean Air Act

I'm outraged and deeply disappointed in Federal District Court Judge George Russell's ruling striking down local environmental restrictions on the Wheelabrator and Curtis Bay Energy, postulating that these changes make it too costly for business. The owners of the 35-year old incinerator have made money off of our city for too long. They have caused harm to the physical health of too many children in our city, and overall environmental damage that will take generations to repair.

Of all levels of government, City Council is the most grassroots -- most constituent focused -- and has the ability to make the biggest direct impact in the lives of Baltimore residents. This ruling flies in the face of Maryland law that clearly authorizes local governments to 'set emission standards or ambient air quality standards' so long as the local standards are no less stringent than the state." The Council courageously and rightly pushed forward measures requiring the Wheelabrator and CBE to comply with The Baltimore Clean Air Act, and yet this vital piece of legislation hasn't been allowed to go into effect pending this ruling. Should this court's ruling be allowed to stand, it would appear to leave our Council powerless to act in protection of our environment.

This devastating outcome (a) makes it easy for the Wheelabrator and Curtis Bay Energy to not make needed changes for our community, and (b) leaves both our city, and residents at a disadvantage as companies continue to profit off us, without concern for our long-term well-being. As a candidate running to represent the most directly impacted area, I am calling on all my fellow candidates to join me in publicly calling on Baltimore City Solicitor Dana Peterson Moore to file a petition with the 4th Circuit to have this wrongheaded decision reviewed.