

signing Senate Bill 790, the result may be that the options available to industries which require these disposal facilities are not only limited, but actually eliminated. The only alternatives for such industries are reduced production or relocation. The State economy can ill afford the potential losses from either alternative.

Another concern which I have with Senate Bill 790 is that it will limit the Baltimore County government in its efforts to manage the County's industrial waste problems. The Department of Natural Resources, in requesting that I veto this bill, points out that approximately one-third of the total industrial wastes generated in the State come from Baltimore County.

Finally, I am concerned that Senate Bill 790 will create new problems at the State level. Recognizing the health, safety, and environmental considerations which are inherent in the issue of hazardous waste disposal, the General Assembly created a program to control such disposal. The Legislature passed, and I signed, Senate Bill 977 (Chapter 618 of the Acts of 1976) which authorized the Department of Natural Resources to issue a permit to operate or maintain a hazardous substance treatment or disposal facility. By the terms of that Act, the Department is required to cooperate with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene with respect to the issuance of permits by the latter agency for refuse disposal systems.

This statutory mandate would now seem to be negated by Senate Bill 790, with respect to the issuance of a permit for a hazardous waste sanitary landfill. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene would be prohibited from issuing such a permit, but the mandate given to the Department of Natural Resources by Chapter 618 is unchanged. At best, the authority of the Department of Natural Resources would be rendered ambiguous by the signing of Senate Bill 790.

The location of many types of public facilities has become one of the most serious issues confronting all governing bodies. Notwithstanding the need for a particular facility, each citizen quite naturally does not want that facility located in an area where its presence may, to his mind, limit his freedom or security. However, the need or placement of a hazardous substance sanitary landfill in Baltimore County is not an issue in this case. Whatever industry or residential location may have prompted the introduction of Senate Bill 790, its potential economic and practical consequences reach far beyond the finite confines of a particular neighborhood.

For these reasons, I have decided to veto Senate