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Councilman Ball Proposes to Expand Scope of HCPSS Mold Report

Ellicott City, MD (August 26, 2016) – Today, Howard County Council Chairperson Calvin Ball announced that he is filing legislation requesting that the Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board expand the scope of its report on the Howard County Public School System's mold issue, which was initially requested by Council Resolution 31-2016.

After Ball originally announced Council Resolution 31-2016, the County Administration offered to begin an assessment of air quality in school buildings. Using funds from the County's systemic renovations budget, the Department of Public Works (DPW) contracted with Skelly and Loy, Inc., an environmental consulting firm, to conduct air quality assessments in 12 schools to examine for the presence of mold.

On August 8, 2016, DPW posted Skelly and Loy's findings on the following schools: Centennial Lane Elementary; Elkridge Elementary; Laurel Woods Elementary; Lisbon Elementary; Pointers Run Elementary; Rockburn Elementary; St. John's Lane Elementary; Talbott Springs Elementary; Glenwood Middle; Mount View Middle; Glenelg High; and Wilde Lake High Schools.

Council Resolution 31-2016 requested that the Environmental Sustainability Board prepare a report which evaluates studies performed by the School System's Indoor Environmental Quality Advisory Committee and any indoor environmental air consultants hired by the School System to inspect for the presence of mold in Howard County Public Schools. Ball's new resolution would expand the scope of the Board's review to include these latest studies as well as Skelly and Loy's recommendations based on the findings.

"I appreciate the work of the Environmental Sustainability Board in reviewing the school system's air quality studies to date, and it is essential that we incorporate these new reports into their review for a comprehensive understanding of the issue," said Dr. Ball. "There is confusion and concern in the community over the latest findings. I am hopeful that the independent review by the Environmental Sustainability Board will help interpret the results in a meaningful way for concerned parents and help clarify next steps to ensure the health and safety of our students and school system employees."

The proposed legislation will be introduced at the Council's legislative session on September 6. Testimony will be accepted at the Council's regular legislative public hearing on September 19. To sign up to testify, visit <https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/otestimony/>. If you would like to submit your testimony electronically, email councilmail@howardcountymd.gov.

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