

Testimony Supporting HB438 / SB560
House Economic Matters Committee / Senate Finance Committee
February 20, 2020 / February 25, 2020

Position: SUPPORT

As a resident of district 32 and a Maryland ratepayer, I am writing to express my strong support of SB438/HB560 and the effort to remove trash incineration from Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard. Burning trash is not clean energy, and Maryland's renewable energy subsidies should be used to support truly green energy like wind and solar, not trash incineration that pollutes our communities.

SB438/HB560 personally affects me because I have asthma. Burning trash makes my asthma worse. I work in Baltimore for the Maryland Department of Health, and I live in Anne Arundel County. Both Baltimore City and Anne Arundel County, as well as Carroll County, Harford County, Howard County, and Howard County, do not meet federal air quality standards for ozone under the Clean Air Act. Ground-level ozone causes asthma attacks, and is formed when nitrogen oxides combine with other chemicals in the atmosphere. The BRESKO trash incinerator, located about two miles from my office, generates more nitrogen oxides pollution than any power plant in Maryland, based on the amount of energy it produces. It's wrong for subsidies that I pay for to go toward a facility that pollutes my home and workplace, and makes my asthma worse.

Fine particle air pollution from the BRESKO incinerator causes over \$55 million in adverse health effects annually, according to a [study](#) commissioned by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Incineration produces more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of energy than coal plants, according to the [Environmental Integrity Project](#). Burning trash is not clean energy, and Maryland's renewable energy subsidies should be used to support truly green energy like wind and solar, not trash incineration that pollutes our communities.

For all of these reasons and many more, I urge the Senate Finance Committee and House Economic Matters Committee to support SB438/HB560 and end subsidies for trash incineration in Maryland. Thank you.

William DuSold