

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

**Position: SUPPORT**

As a resident of Baltimore City and a Maryland ratepayer, I am writing to express my strong support of HB438/SB560 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.

As a nurse in the Pediatric Emergency Room at the University of Maryland Medical Center I see children living with asthma everyday. Children that need to miss school regularly because of their asthma exacerbations. I see the stress that it causes parents when they need to miss work to care for their child in the hospital and, on occasion, the trauma that families have to deal with when a patient doesn't survive despite emergent efforts. These are especially heartbreaking days at work because asthma is a product of environment and exacerbations are preventable.

The citizens of Baltimore city deserve a right to air without the triggering chemical pollution that comes from incineration. Baltimore city has double the rate of asthma compared to the rest of Maryland and the fact that many of our patients live in the shadow of the Bresco incinerator is not a coincidence. Fine particle air pollution from the BRESCO incinerator causes over \$55 million in adverse health effects annually, according to a [study](#) commissioned by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Breathing in the particulate matter that is emitted from the incinerator causes increased risk for asthma exacerbations and other health complications. The fact that Maryland continues to support incineration with subsidies due to the Renewable Portfolio Standard is simply an environmental injustice that you should not allow to continue.

For all of these reasons and many more, I urge the House Economic Matters Committee to support HB438/SB560 and end subsidies for trash incineration in Maryland. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Emily Bryson  
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