

Brandon M. Scott

President

Baltimore City Council

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HB 438

February 19, 2020

TO: The Honorable Members of the Economic Matters Committee
FROM: The Honorable Brandon M. Scott, President of the Baltimore City Council
RE: HOUSE BILL 438 – Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources
POSITION: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Davis,

I write to you in **support** of House Bill 438. This bill will remove trash incineration from Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and end the practice of providing subsidies to trash incineration, including Baltimore's trash incinerator, Wheelabrator.

Trash incineration is not clean energy, and should never have been included in Tier 1 of Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard. Incinerators such as Wheelabrator contribute significantly to air pollution in the region. This incinerator is the largest contributor to air pollution in the City of Baltimore. It was also one of the top 3 polluting facilities in the State of Maryland for hazardous air pollutants in 2015 and 2016. According to a study commissioned by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Wheelabrator causes over \$20 million in adverse health effects annually in the State of Maryland with its fine particulate air pollution alone. Given its pollution and negative health effects, trash incineration is clearly, not a source of clean energy.

Here in Baltimore, we are making enormous strides toward transitioning toward zero waste systems that will improve our local environment and build our local economy. State subsidies for trash incineration are holding us back from that future. Removing trash incineration from RPS, would support new high-paying Maryland jobs in renewable energy, and increase GDP due to construction of new Maryland-based renewable energy infrastructure.

In January 2019, the Baltimore City Council overwhelmingly passed Resolution 19-0123R (attached), requesting that the state take action to remove trash incineration from the RPS as part of the Clean Energy Jobs Act. I understand that the Clean Energy Jobs Act was passed last year with that language removed, allowing subsidies for incineration to continue. I urge you to honor Baltimore's hard work to improve our air quality and move toward a zero waste future. I hope that you will move for a **favorable** report on House Bill 438.

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Sincerely,



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