

Bill: House Bill 438 / Senate Bill 560

Committee: House Economic Matters Committee / Senate Finance Committee

Position: SUPPORT

Date: February 20, 2020 / February 25, 2020

Testimony of Rodette Jones

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing you today in support of HB438/SB560. This bill will take the necessary steps in removing trash incineration from the list of “Tier 1 renewable sources,” ensuring that these subsidies go to intended sources -- clean energy alternatives. It has become increasingly clear that the time to act on climate change is now and this bill will take a meaningful first step in removing subsidies from an energy source that is actively polluting Maryland’s environment. Supporting this bill will allow true clean energy sources to develop and grow in Maryland, a step in the right direction in taking serious climate action.

The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report made clear that we need to take drastic action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions immediately in order to avert climate catastrophe. Removing trash incineration from Maryland’s RPS will allow Maryland to pursue clean energy alternatives such as wind and solar. Maryland is a state with over 3,000 miles of coastline; rising sea levels due to climate change will directly impact large portions of Marylanders. A changing climate will produce more extreme weather events such as hurricanes, droughts, and floods.

The earth is our home and we are destroying it by continuing to subsidize energy sources that actively pollute the environment. We must listen to the data and take action to combat climate change. If we continue to allow trash incineration to receive Tier 1 renewable source subsidies, we are preventing clean energy solutions from establishing themselves in Maryland that would help to combat climate change. I support HB438/SB560 because it is the first step in ensuring that Maryland takes an active stance in ensuring that our environment is protected for ourselves as well as future generations.

Sincerely,

Rodette Jones