



**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL**  
**KRISTERFER BURNETT, 8<sup>th</sup> District**

Committees: Executive Appointments, Housing and Urban Affairs,  
Public Safety, Education and Youth

Room 521, City Hall  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
Office: 410-396-4818  
Fax: 410-396-4828

**BILL NO:** HB438 / SB560  
**TITLE:** Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources  
**COMMITTEE:** House Economic Matters Committee and Senate Finance Committee  
**POSITION:** **SUPPORT**

As a member of the Baltimore City Council I am dedicated to transitioning Baltimore toward zero waste practices. I am writing today to urge you to support HB438/SB560 to remove trash incineration from Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard and end the practice of providing subsidies to trash incineration, including Baltimore's trash incinerator.

BRESCO began burning trash in 1985 and it has contributed significantly to air pollution in our region. According to a study commissioned by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, in fine particulate air pollution alone, incinerators cause over \$20 million in adverse health effects.

Baltimore is making enormous strides to improve air quality through the passage of the Clean Air Act and transitioning toward zero waste systems that will improve our local environment and build our local economy. However, continued subsidies from the State create artificial profitability for incinerators to operate and that profitability could create incentives to build a new incinerator in the Baltimore region which would have enormous negative impacts on our City.

Trash incineration is not clean energy and should never have been included in Tier 1 of Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard. Since it was added to that category in 2011, incinerators has received millions of dollars in subsidies paid by ratepayers across Maryland masking the true cost of incineration to our communities.

Instead of utilizing the Renewable Portfolio Standard for what it was enacted to support – wind and solar power. The subsidies have been put towards incinerators. If those subsidies were redirected towards development of renewable energy, Baltimore residents would benefit with new, living wage jobs building and installing solar panels across the city and participating in the offshore wind industry as it develops at Sparrow's Point. Let our renewable energy subsidies do more to support these developing industries, not to artificially prop up an aging, polluting facility.

In January 2019 my colleagues and I on the Baltimore City Council overwhelmingly voted for Resolution 19-0123 (attached), requesting that the state take action to remove trash incineration from the Renewable Portfolio Standard as part of the Clean Energy Jobs Act. I

understand that the State's Clean Energy Jobs Act passed last year with that language removed, allowing subsidies for incineration to continue and even increase in the future.

I urge you to honor Baltimore's hard work to improve our air quality and move toward a zero waste future by completing last year's unfinished business and supporting HB438/SB560.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KBurnett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "K".

Kristerfer Burnett  
City Councilmen District 8  
Baltimore City