



## ***Baltimore Beyond Plastic***

***11 E. Mount Royal Avenue,  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Baltimore, 21202  
bmorebeyondplastic.org***

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

**Baltimore Beyond Plastic, strongly supports SB 313 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 poisons our communities.

**HB438/SB560 is a necessary step in addressing our contributions to our changing climate and the threat that it imposes on our future.**

**#1- Including trash incineration in the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards is dishonest.** Creation of the RPS was not intended to fund polluting harmful industries. The RPS was created to elevate the need for cleaner solutions to our current systems that are destructive to our atmosphere, our lungs and our environment. Including trash incineration in our RPS leaves us funding the very systems we need to move away from. The subsidies received should be used for wind and solar energy so they can expand and move us away from these destructive cycles.

**#2- Trash incineration fuels climate change, negatively impacts our health, and harms our environment.** In 2015, the Wheelabrator Baltimore incinerator emitted about twice as many greenhouse gases per amount of energy produced, on average, as each of the six coal plants located in Maryland .Air pollutants from waste incinerators increases asthma rates for all ages, increases the risk of pre-term births, and is exponentially linked to increases cases of cancers of the blood and lung. New clean energy development made possible by removing “waste-to-energy” incineration from the RPS would decrease carbon emissions and reduce healthcare costs.

**#3- We as youth have spoken. We are not disposable.** Our generation is standing up across the planet to make our voice heard in the issue we face with the destruction caused by our dishonest profit driven economy. The threat of inaction against climate change is real and our generation is uncertain that our future is promised. Millions of youth across the globe are calling on our elected leaders to act on the facts and work across party lines to work toward our secure future. We deserve true clean energy.



## ***Baltimore Beyond Plastic***

***11 E. Mount Royal Avenue,  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Baltimore, 21202  
bmorebeyondplastic.org***

**For all of these reasons and many more, please support HB438/SB560 and end subsidies for trash incineration in Maryland. Thank you.**

Thank you for your time, your service and your consideration,

### **Baltimore Beyond Plastic**

Maya Wiekert, Sophomore at The Baltimore City College  
Nicholas Kophengnavong, Senior at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute  
Katelynn Johnson, Senior at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute  
Juno Adekunle-Owens, Junior at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute  
Rachel Fink, Senior at The Baltimore City College  
Elizabeth Sacktor, Senior at Baltimore School for the Arts  
Dija Thompson, Sophomore at The Baltimore City College  
Grace Walsh-Little, Senior at The Baltimore City College

Youth Environmental Network, Baltimore City

Students of Harlem Park Elementary/Middle School Green Team  
Students of Furley Elementary School Green Team  
Students of Commodore John Rodgers Elementary/Middle School Green Team  
Students of Augusta Fells Savage Institute for Visual Arts High School Green Team  
Students of Reginald F. Lewis High School Green Team