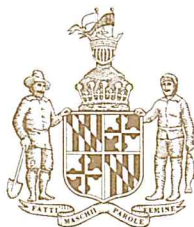


SENATOR DELORES G. KELLEY
Legislative District 10
Baltimore County

—
Chair
Finance Committee

—
Executive Nominations Committee
Rules Committee
Legislative Policy Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY OF SENATOR DELORES G. KELLEY

**REGARDING SENATE BILL 168 - ELECTRICITY - RENEWABLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO
STANDARD – QUALIFYING BIOMASS**

BEFORE THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

ON FEBRUARY 4, 2020

Mr. Vice Chair and Members:

Maryland’s Renewable Portfolio Standard is one of the State’s primary tools for combating climate change and for supporting the development of new, clean, and renewable energy sources. Just last year, this Committee passed an ambitious, much expanded RPS Bill, increasing the State’s commitment to wind, solar and other technologies. However, there is still work to be done, as there are several remaining sources that are either not new or not clean.

Black liquor, a mix of caustic chemicals and wood waste, left over from the manufacture of paper, remains in our portfolio, and releases carbon dioxide, a major greenhouse gas that harms the climate. While the votes were not there in the 2019 Session to remove black liquor from our State's RPS, because of significant concerns of some members regarding the impact on Maryland jobs at Luke Mill, the Mill subsequently closed anyway, and we now have no legitimate reason to retain black liquor in our RPS, as it no longer meets any of Maryland's environmental or economic goals. With passage of Senate Bill 168, which removes black liquor from our RPS.

In a 2018 RPS Compliance Report for the 2017 calendar year, black liquor was the source of 24% of all Tier 1 RPS REC's. While Maryland's Luke Mill supplied only 6.6% of these black liquor REC's, we were also subsidizing black liquor from Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, and Tennessee. These remaining sources of black liquor obviously produce no jobs in Maryland, while impacting public health and the climate by adding harmful pollutants, and smog – creating nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide.

Maryland's RPS should support clean energy, preferably with a beneficial impact to Maryland's economy rather than granting recs to out-of-state paper mills. Senate Bill 168 removes black liquor from the RPS, and strengthens our State's commitment to truly cleaner, renewable energy projects.

I, therefore, seek your strong support of Senate Bill 168.