



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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SB 560

DATE: February 25, 2020

SPONSOR: Senator Hough, *et al.*

ASSIGNED TO: Finance

CONTACT PERSON: Amy Samman (amy.samman@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: SUPPORT

Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources

Senate Bill 560 removes waste to energy and refuse-derived fuel from the list of Tier 1 renewable sources on January 1, 2021 but does not impair any existing obligation or contract right.

The Renewable Portfolio Standard was set up to encourage the development of clean sources of electricity generation like solar and wind. States created renewable standards in order to diversify their energy resources to include cleaner sources of generation, the promotion of domestic energy production, and to encourage economic development. According to a study by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, roughly half of the growth in U.S. renewable energy generation since 2000 can be attributed to state renewable energy standards.

The primary function of waste-to-energy is not to generate energy; it is a solid waste management method that happens to generate electricity as a by-product. Including waste-to-energy as a Tier I resource under Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard could potentially displace the development of new renewable sources of power like solar and wind.

For the foregoing reasons, Montgomery County respectfully requests a favorable Committee report for Senate Bill 560.