

Testimony Supporting SB560
Senate Finance Committee
February 25, 2020

June W. Risley, Community Partner with Benjamin Franklin High School,
25 year resident of Baltimore City, activist for clean air, water and affordable housing

About 8 years ago, students at Ben Franklin researched issues in their communities and found both land and air were contributing to severe health problems. They also discovered that a permit was processing to build a huge incinerator less than a mile from their school. Armed with their statistics and helped by local human rights group United Workers, those students gave testimony to ALL of the organizations and bodies that were being convinced to buy the “energy” from the new incinerator, and they were successful in getting fact-minded listeners to rescind that permit.

You legislators are in a similar situation trying to decide who is telling the truth and what’s best for our future. I urge you to listen to your constituents, not a private company. Please go to time.com/nextgenleaders (6/13/2016) to read about Destiny Watford, representative for these students, receiving the Goldman Award for the United States as an environmental activist.

Here we are again! Right now, Wheelabrator is suing Baltimore City to block the city’s Clean Air Act from going into effect. Around this time last year, my mailbox was receiving several costly, super-sized ads against bill (see photos attached to my testimony). These ads are all paid for by Wheelabrator. So we need to ask, “Are these true statements or the use of ‘alternative facts’” to protect profits?

They say “Waste-to-Energy” is preferred by the EPA over landfilling. They don’t mention that the toxic ash they produce when they burn waste is being hauled to a landfill in Curtis Bay. They don’t mention that we have more options beyond just burning or burying our waste and that our ultimate goal should be zero waste.

Another statement on the Wheelabrator brochure is that since 1985, they’ve processed 23 million tons of “post-recycled waste.” How does this compare with Baltimore City’s waste audit, which found that 80% of what is sent to Wheelabrator’s facility could be recycled or composted? Think about all the possible good uses of recycled materials if money was redirected into plants and jobs -- not to mention wind and solar development to produce truly clean energy.

Given all of their misleading assertions in their mailers, I believe Wheelabrator must think we can’t read! These brochures in my mailbox are proof enough for me that Wheelabrator is fearful that their time has come. Their profits are at stake; we, citizens of Maryland, are fighting for survival.

June W. Risley
1234 Patapsco St #11
Baltimore, MD 21230
410-370-2212



Waste-to-energy is highly regulated by the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** and the **Maryland Department of the Environment** to ensure the protection of public health.

 Since 1985, Wheelabrator Baltimore has processed over 23 million tons of post-recycled waste, generated 10 million megawatts of renewable electricity and recycled 350,000 tons of metals.

Wheelabrator Baltimore's waste-to-energy is part of the solution
GetTheFactsBmore.com

The Facts:

 **EPA Preferred**

The U.S. EPA prefers waste-to-energy over landfilling to manage waste because it reduces greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 1 ton for every ton of waste processed and produces reliable, renewable electricity without relying on fossil fuel-generating facilities.

 **800 Compliance checks**

Wheelabrator Baltimore monitors plant and air quality control with more than 800 compliance checks each and every day.

 **1.3 Million tons**

Baltimore City currently recycles only 20% of its waste, leaving nearly 1.3 million tons of post-recycled waste that must be managed responsibly each year.

 **No Plan**

There is no infrastructure, funding or environmentally sound plan to responsibly manage Baltimore City's post-recycled waste without Wheelabrator Baltimore's waste-to-energy facility.

GetTheFactsBmore.com

Paid for by Wheelabrator Technologies.



Contact the City Council

(410) 396-4804

CouncilPresident@BaltimoreCity.gov

Tell them we need a sensible and realistic approach to Clean Air in Baltimore, but **The Clean Air Act is not a solution.**

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 Baltimore, MD 21230



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