



PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND

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Testimony on Maryland House Bill 166 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

TO: Chair C.T. Wilson, Vice Chair Brian M. Crosby, and members of the committee

FROM: Anna Antonio, Baltimore, MD

DATE: March 7, 2024

Greetings,

I am writing to you as a concerned resident of Baltimore who was born with asthma and cares deeply about the people of my city.

Living with asthma from secondhand smoke has been a burden to me my entire life. I've suffered multiple asthma attacks, including one which nearly ended my life. It's a condition that I wouldn't want for anyone. So when I found out that my monthly utility bill was going to fund a trash incinerator wrongfully labeled as a "renewable energy source" which has been causing higher rates of asthma and cancer amongst the predominantly Black inhabitants of South Baltimore, I knew I had to testify in support of HB-166.

The reason why I support this bill is simple: Burning trash is not renewable energy. Listing this trash incinerator as a form of "renewable energy" has resulted in the people of South Baltimore (and Baltimore as a whole)'s money going to funding an environmentally destructive pollutant which has been jeopardizing their health - In other words, making the people of South Baltimore pay this trash incinerator to give them asthma and cancer. That is, frankly, heinous and needs to stop now.

I don't want my monthly utility bill to fund a toxic incinerator that is causing disproportionate rates of asthma and lung cancer in the Black community of South Baltimore. I want my monthly utility bill to go towards funding actual examples of renewable energy (solar wind, geothermal power, etc) which will *reduce* our carbon footprint and make our state an example in the national fight against climate change.

Sincerely,

Anna Antonio

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