

Testimony Supporting HB166 House Economic Matters Committee March 7, 2024

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Wilson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Carlos Sanchez, I'm a resident of Baltimore City and part of a grassroots, community based nonprofit organization, the South Baltimore Community Land trust. I'm writing to express my strong support for HB166

I'll start off by saying Baltimore, and Maryland ratepayers at large, have been wasting so much money investing in non renewable "trash" incineration", subsidizing what is clearly not an efficient nor renewable way to get energy. The Land Trust has long been working to move Baltimore to a healthier future, building a path forward where we can receive our energy from truly renewable sources like wind and solar. But, this renewable energy shift has been inhibited by the increasing money going to the BRESCO Waste incinerator and the two other non renewable incineration facilities in Maryland and Virginia. As Maryland ratepayers, we are frustrated by how our money profits these non renewable, climate polluting facilities, further harmful to human health in comparison to Solar, and wind. As we continue building our sustainable communities in South Baltimore, we are here today strongly in support of Bill HB166.

We have, as a group, started a sign on letter for District 46 Community organization, groups, and associations, as the BRESCO incinerator is located in our 46th district. I quote, "The message from Baltimore is clear: it's time for Maryland to stop subsidizing polluters like BRESCO, and use that money to support real renewable energy instead. Senate President Ferguson, we hope that you and the entire City delegation will lead on finally fixing this environmental injustice."

Please pass HB166 as it's what Residents, Groups and Organizations need the state to do! last year city councilwomen porter came to the hearing and testified in favor of the bill. The Baltimore City Comptroller also put in favorable for the bill this year. We need yall to help restore the RPS to its original purpose of funding real and clean renewable energy. Thank you!

Sincerely, South Baltimore Community Land Trust