



# 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:**

**DATE:** March 5, 2024

**POSITION:** Favorable

Good afternoon,

I am writing to you as a concerned Maryland resident (district 7A) to express my strong support for HB166, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act. I am deeply invested in the well-being of our environment and the health of our communities. HB166 is crucial legislation that upholds the true spirit of renewable energy and addresses the pressing need to protect our communities in the face of the climate crisis.

For too long, Maryland has included trash incineration in our Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS), misleadingly labeling it as a renewable energy source. However, trash incineration comes with significant environmental and public health risks, including air and water pollution, contributing to climate change, and disproportionately burdening marginalized communities with environmental injustice.

Having spoken with countless individuals who live in close proximity to the incinerator in Baltimore, I can attest that trash burning is neither renewable nor clean under any definition. It is imperative that we redirect our resources towards truly clean, renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and geothermal.

By passing HB166, we can correct the mistakes made years ago and demonstrate our commitment to clean energy, environmental justice, and a healthy future for our state. I urge you to support this important legislation and show Marylanders that we are serious about building a sustainable future for all.

Sincerely,

Anjali Gulati  
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Climate Equity Associate  
Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)