HB166 - Reclaim Renewable Energy Act - Testimony.p
Uploaded by: Abigail Snyder
Position: FAV

BALTIMORE JEWISH COUNCIL

Written Testimony
House Bill 166 – Reclaim Renewable Energy Act
Economic Matters Committee – March 7, 2024
Support

Background: House Bill 166 would alter the definition of a "Tier 1 renewable source" to exclude energy derived from waste and refuse from being eligible for inclusion in the renewable energy portfolio standard moving forward.

Written Comments: The Jewish concept of *tikkun olam* means to repair the world in which we live. As the advocacy arm of The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore, we represent organizations that work to educate the community on sustainability and make strides towards repairing the world. One of these entities is The Pearlstone Center in Reisterstown, MD, a conference center and farm that employs and teaches sustainable practices.

Trash incineration is a very polluting method of producing electricity. A new 2023 study in PLOS Climate found that “incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity produced than any other power source” - including coal plants. Maryland needs to show its residents that they are a priority, by funding renewable energy development that shows we are taking the climate and public health crises in our state seriously.

This legislation is an important tool to support clean, renewable energy development and decrease emissions from the electricity sector. By tightening the belt and choosing to no longer subsidize trash incineration as a form of renewable energy, you will show your commitment to public health; protect taxpayer dollars; and improve the trajectory of the impact on our environment.

For these reasons, the Baltimore Jewish Council asks for a favorable report on HB166.

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.

BALTIMORE JEWISH COUNCIL
5750 Park Heights Avenue, Suite 329 • Baltimore, Maryland 21215
410-542-4850 • fax 410-542-4834 • baltjc.org
Member of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs

Alice Goldberg-Support RREA-HB0166.pdf
Uploaded by: Alice Goldberg
Position: FAV

PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND
P.O. Box 7595, Largo MD 20792
ProgressiveMaryland.org
Info@progressivemaryland.org

Members of the Economic Matters Committee
100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

As a concerned resident of Cheverly in the 47th district and a volunteer wit the Progressive Maryland Environmental Justice Task Force, I submit this written testimony in strong support of HB0166, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act. I am also a teacher, small business owner, graduate of the University of Maryland with a Masters' in Environmental and Energy Public Policy, and rate payer, and I am tired of subsidizing dirty energy with my utility fees.

Currently, Maryland includes trash incineration in our Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS), inaccurately labeling it as a renewable energy source. In reality, trash incineration comes with significant environmental and public health risks. According to a peer reviewed study by Neil Tangri, published by PLOS Climate on June 1, 2023, "Incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity than any other power source." They also emit highly reactive and poisonous nitrogen oxide (NO_x) and sulfur dioxide (SO_2) gasses, plus heavy metal pollutants like mercury and lead that increase rates of cancer, asthma, and other respiratory and neurological health maladies in neighboring environmental justice communities.[1]

Maryland wastes an increasing amount of money by subsidizing trash incineration due to the market-based structure of our renewable portfolio standards (RPS). The total subsidies to trash ballooned from $11.5 million in 2020 to $24.7 million in 2022. As members of the Economic Matters Committee I want you to be infuriated that major companies like BRESCO, which poison people and are antithetical to our climate goals, receive any cut of the limited RPS monies that we desperately need for combating climate change and lowering air pollution.

We must redirect our resources towards real renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and geothermal. Please vote in support of HB0166 and demonstrate Maryland's commitment to clean energy, environmental justice, and a healthy future for our state.

Sincerely,
Alice Goldberg

[1] Tangri N (2023) *Waste incinerators undermine clean energy goals.* PLOS Clim 2(6): e0000100. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pclm.0000100

RREA Testimony_ Anjali.pdf
Uploaded by: Anjali Gulati
Position: FAV

PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND
P.O. Box 6988 Largo, MD 20792
www.ProgressiveMaryland.org
Contact@ProgressiveMaryland.org
Facebook.com/ProgressiveMaryland
@Progressive_MD

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
+1 (410) 322-6018
Climate Equity Associate
Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)

Testimony for MD HB166.pdf
Uploaded by: Anna Antonio
Position: FAV

PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND
P.O. Box 7595, Largo MD 20792
ProgressiveMaryland.org
Info@progressivemaryland.org

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

Anna Antonio

HB166 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.pdf
Uploaded by: Anne Rosenthal
Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coaltion (BTEC). I am a resident of District 43A, and **I am testifying in support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024, HB166.**

Maryland needs to take action on climate change, and needs to find ways to do so this year that do not cost any money out of the state budget. As Senate President Ferguson recently said “this is a year about prioritizing the resources that we have.” Over three years, the total subsidies to trash incinerators (including out-of-state companies) through Maryland’s RPS ballooned from $11.5 million in 2020 to $24.7 million in 2022, while a new 2023 study in PLOS Climate found that “incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity produced than any other power source” - including coal plants. That makes this subsidy doubly bad policy for Marylanders and our goals and a perfect target for cuts. This bill does just that by excluding incineration of waste and refuse-derived fuel from the “tier1 renewable source” category of the state’s renewable energy portfolio.

The state isn’t the only stakeholder being being forced to pay subsidies to polluting fuel sources under the guise of renewable energy: so are state taxpayers. The RPS subsidy is paid by electric utilities, and ultimately comes out of our utility bills. We deserve to know that when we’re paying for renewable energy, we’re actually helping support the renewable energy we need to fight climate change and clean our air.

Finally, the subject matter experts in the state’s own Department of the Environment and Commission on Climate Change both recently published reports supporting this action.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024, HB166.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Anne Rosenthal
2804 Fox St, Baltimore, MD 21211
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

FINAL RREA 2024 written testimony House cmte 03.05
Uploaded by: Anne Wilson
Position: FAV

Testimony Supporting HB166
House Economic Matters Committee
March 5, 2024

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Wilson and Members of the Committee,

As a resident of District 43 in the City of Baltimore, a Maryland energy ratepayer, and a person increasingly affected by the climate crisis, I am writing to express my strong support of **HB166, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024.**

The climate crisis is by far the single greatest threat to economic prosperity, here in Maryland, across the U.S., and around the globe. The economic damages from climate disasters are piling up, and will increase sooner, faster, and with more devastating effects than most policymakers seem to appreciate, judging from actions to date.

The environmental case against trash incineration's inclusion in the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) is well-known: that, in contrast to the zero-emission energy production profile of solar and wind, trash incineration produces more greenhouse gasses per unit of electricity than any other power source, including coal, oil and gas. That Baltimore's WIN Waste trash incinerator alone produces at least 640,000 tons of CO_2 per year, while siphoning off millions in public money that could support real, zero-emission renewable energy. That the City of Baltimore's largest single-point source of air pollution should, by definition, not qualify for renewable energy subsidies.

These matters have proved to be of little importance to this committee in past years. Instead, every year some legislators ask "what about the trash?" Others seem puzzled that environmentalists would be opposed to trash incineration more generally, when it offsets some of the climate-heating methane that trash otherwise produces when placed in a landfill. Others seem to think that a more diversified portfolio of energy sources in the RPS is an inherent benefit to the wind and solar energy producers who participate. Others seem concerned that without the RPS money, WIN Waste will shut down its Baltimore operations, resulting in the loss of 70 non-union jobs and potentially creating a waste management crisis that seems to have taken on near-apocalyptic proportions in the minds of legislators.

The fact that trash incineration produces greenhouse gasses should be automatically disqualifying, but since that does not address the concerns of a majority of the committee, I will take a different tack.

Let's be clear: if WIN Waste chooses to leave Baltimore because it is no longer eligible to receive RPS money, that is a business decision. BRESCO operated from 1985 to 2004 without money from the RPS. If it truly needs that money, why can't WIN Waste switch to the RPS of another state that includes trash in its RPS, like Pennsylvania, Ohio or Michigan? I

would prefer that no trash incinerator receive money intended for renewable energy producers, but a possible BRESCO shutdown strikes me as a threat that is quite possibly completely empty. Real or not, it looks to outside observers like this threat has built up in the minds of some Baltimore City decisionmakers, as well as state legislators, because everyone is afraid of having a thorough, open and transparent discussion with the public about whether a possible incinerator shutdown is what is truly at stake in the passage of this bill. There may be statutory reasons WIN Waste can not switch to another state's RPS. Has anyone on the House Economic Matters Committee asked WIN Waste representatives? If so, why is that information never part of these hearings?

The nature of City of Baltimore's waste management systems and practices, and how they should evolve, are worthy lines of inquiry, but they have nothing to do with promoting genuinely renewable energy production in Maryland. They should never have been linked in the first place.

The rest of the questions are distractions that fail to take a science-based preventive approach to our climate crisis. WIN Waste and Covanta will tell you that their incinerators are preventing methane emissions, but the EPA's current Waste Management Hierarchy makes it plain: this is not the way to do it. The solution to landfill methane emissions is preventing organic materials, especially food waste, from being buried in the landfill in the first place, and composting what can not be used in any other way. The EPA places "energy recovery" (aka trash incineration) below two other preferred approaches, 1) Source Reduction and Reuse and 2) Recycling/Composting. The EPA states:

The hierarchy places emphasis on reducing, reusing, recycling and composting as key to sustainable materials management. These strategies reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.[1]

Supporters of incineration will say that reducing methane from landfill by burning the trash is well worth it, because methane is so much more powerful as a heat-trapping gas in the atmosphere, compared to the carbon dioxide produced from incinerating those same materials. Methane is more powerful, indeed, but don't be fooled: it does not have to be produced in the first place. As the EPA's hierarchy suggests, composting offers a vastly preferable emissions profile, with a percentage of the carbon sequestered in the form of the compost material that is used as a soil amendment. Baltimore has begun the work to switch to composting rather than landfilling its organic waste, with a $4 million grant from the EPA for a pilot municipal composting program. We are on the right track.

Preventing methane emissions from landfill is indeed an urgent priority, but the folks who promote trash incineration as an answer to that problem usually fail to mention that not only would prevention – composting – be the healthier way to go, but methane has a relatively short

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[1] https://www.epa.gov/smm/sustainable-materials-management-non-hazardous-materials-and-waste-management-hierarchy

lifespan of 7 to 12 years in the atmosphere (it breaks down into carbon dioxide and water), while CO_2 can persist for hundreds of years or more.[2] In the incinerator, not only does the organic waste burn, releasing CO_2, but everything else burns too, including the plastic. When incinerated, plastic is a high-energy fossil fuel and releases massive amounts of greenhouse gasses, just like coal, oil, or gas. In a climate crisis, on top of our existing public health crises, there is really no excuse for emitting both large amounts of air pollution and *additional volumes of greenhouse gasses* from burning plastic that otherwise would not be emitted at all.

From a climate perspective, plastic that can not be recycled is much less harmful in a well-managed landfill. No one wants to keep putting plastic in landfills, but from a climate standpoint, properly landfilling non-recyclable plastic for now is preferable to burning it and releasing the toxic results, including tons of greenhouse gasses, directly into the atmosphere. Reducing the use of single-use plastic is our first step to addressing our plastic problem, so that it is not filling up our landfills and polluting our waterways. Ideally, we'll then eliminate the production of non-essential single-use plastic. It will get harder from there. That still doesn't make burning plastic preferable to landfilling it.

Properly addressing climate change is projected to cost our state $1 billion a year, but as you know, the Department of Legislative Services has concluded that this bill, which *only* takes trash incineration out of the RPS, would have zero impact on the state budget and very little, if any, on our energy bills. It's recommended in the Climate Pollution Reduction Plan that MDE released in December, and it's also recommended by the Maryland Commission on Climate Change's 2023 Annual Report. Baltimore's trash problems are not going to be helped or made any easier by its continued reliance on the WIN Waste trash incinerator. Its possible shutdown would indeed be a crisis for the City, and all the municipalities and entities that bring their trash to Baltimore. But that is not going to happen because HB166 passes – it is a decision of WIN Waste and possibly the City of Baltimore.

Passing HB166 is not going to stop climate change. It took a lot of actions over time to create this crisis, however, and it's going to take a lot of actions to make the high-impact collective effort we must make to avoid the worst effects of climate change. The RPS was meant to incentivize real, zero-emission renewable energy. It should not be a bonus revenue stream for facilities that send hundreds of thousands of tons of greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere along with air pollution that directly harms human health. It's time to stop wasting our money rewarding greenhouse gas emitters, and clean up our RPS.

I urge you to give HB166, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act, a FAVORABLE report.

Anne C.A. Wilson (District 43A)
221 Stony Run Lane, Apt H-2, Baltimore, Maryland 21210

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2 https://climate.nasa.gov/vital-signs/methane/#:~:text=A%20molecule%20of%20methane%20traps,natural%20sources%20and%20human%20activities.

HB166_Arielle Juberg_FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Arielle Juberg
Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are working in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition (BTEC). I am a resident of District 8. **I am testifying in support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024, HB166.**

Our state must take action on climate change. A 2023 study in PLOS Climate found that "incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity produced than any other power source" - including coal plants. However, over three years, the total subsidies to trash incinerators (including out-of-state companies) through Maryland's RPS ballooned from $11.5 million in 2020 to $24.7 million in 2022. This subsidy is using valuable state resources on a heavily polluting industry. This bill will exclude incineration of waste and refuse-derived fuel from the "tier 1 renewable source" category of the state's renewable energy portfolio.

The state isn't the only stakeholder being forced to pay subsidies to polluting fuel sources under the guise of renewable energy - so are Maryland taxpayers. The RPS subsidy is paid by electric utilities, and ultimately comes out of our utility bills. We deserve to know that when we're paying for renewable energy, we're actually helping support the renewable energy we need to fight climate change and clean our air.

It is worth noting that the subject matter experts in the state's Department of the Environment and Commission on Climate Change both recently published reports supporting this action.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024, HB166.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Arielle Juberg
3411 Upton Road
Baltimore, MD 21234
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

Testimony - HB 166 - Reclaim Renewable Energy - Fa

Uploaded by: Ashley Egan

Position: FAV

Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Testimony in Support
HB 166- Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations
(Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)

To: Chair C.T. Wilson and members of the Economic Matters Committee
From: Phil Webster, PhD
Lead Advocate on Climate Change
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland.
Date: March 7, 2024

The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland (UULM-MD) strongly supports **HB 166 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2023)** and urges a FAVORABLE report by the committee.

The UULM-MD is a statewide faith-based advocacy organization, with over 1,200 members, based on the Principles of Unitarian Universalism. Unitarian Universalists believe in *"justice and equity in human relations"* and "*respect for the interconnected web of all existence of which we are a part."*

We believe that renewable energy should not add greenhouse gasses to the atmosphere. We support passing this legislation to ensure that Maryland ratepayers are getting what they're paying for: renewable energy dollars going to support actual renewable energy.

This bill would eliminate Trash Incineration from Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). Trash incineration is a simple "solution" to a very complicated problem. Burning trash maximizes pollution, especially when it is used in lieu of implementing a comprehensive solution, which would include composting, recycling, and reusing products. Incinerating trash disincentivizes better alternatives for handling our trash. So it defies logic for incineration to be classified as a source of renewable energy; it's not!

Since 2008, Maryland ratepayers have spent over $200 million on Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) from dirty sources misclassified as "renewable." That money should have been supporting those communities that have borne the brunt of harmful pollution.

Three years ago, the legislature wisely eliminated black liquor, a polluting paper mill byproduct, from the RPS. That action freed up money that was being wasted to support real renewable energy instead. For all the good reasons the legislature eliminated black liquor from the RPS, we urge you to pass the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (SB 146) in 2023.

All Marylanders need bold and urgent action! Please keep us on the right and moral path towards a livable climate and a sustainable world. We owe it to our children.

We support this bill and urge a FAVORABLE report in committee.

Phil Webster, PhD

Lead Advocate, Climate Change UULM-MD

Baltimore%20City%20sign%20on%20letter:%20it's%20ti
Uploaded by: Carlos Sanchez
Position: FAV

Testimony Supporting HB166
House Economic Matters Committee
March 7, 2024

Position: SUPPORT

> *The following letter to the Baltimore City delegation in support of HB166 was signed by 12 community and business organizations in District 46, the district which houses the BRESCO trash incinerator in Baltimore.*

Dear Senate President Ferguson and members of the Baltimore City Delegation,

The undersigned neighborhood and business organizations in District 46 urge you to support eliminating trash incineration from Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard by passing HB166/SB146, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act, in the General Assembly's 2024 session.

No source of energy that pollutes the air we breathe should be considered renewable. The BRESCO trash incinerator pollutes the air we breathe in District 46 and throughout the city every single day. A recent study found that incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity produced than *any* other power source, and more criteria air pollutants than replacement sources of energy. Diverting renewable energy subsidies away from wind and solar to profit polluting industries like trash incineration is a terrible waste of money.

Subsidizing trash incineration also makes it harder for our local governments to transition to healthier infrastructure for managing our waste. Subsidies for trash incinerators give the companies that own them needless extra profits, making them artificially more competitive against the composting, recycling, reuse, and waste reduction initiatives and businesses that we actually need. Putting 'renewable energy' subsidies back into wind and solar power where they belong will also allow Zero Waste infrastructure to compete on an even playing field - but until we make that change, the state of Maryland is giving incinerators an economic leg up over the infrastructure we actually need.

In 2022, $24.7 million of Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard subsidies went to profit trash incinerators, instead of helping develop the new wind and solar power that we need to fight climate change. The private company that operates the BRESCO trash incinerator, located here in District 46 in Baltimore City, actually received the least of the three incinerators profiting from this subsidy. The trash incinerator in Montgomery County received about twice as much money, and an incinerator in Lorton, Virginia, received three times as much subsidy from Maryland ratepayers.

As Baltimore City Comptroller Bill Henry wrote in his testimony in support of SB146, “Dedicating our renewable energy funds to genuinely renewable energy is an appropriate step to steward Maryland’s climate action resources wisely and make the RPS program more environmentally just and fiscally responsible.”

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.

Sincerely,

SB7 Coalition

South Baltimore Community Land Trust

Westport Neighborhood Association

Harbor West Collaborative

Family of Ellwood Park

Lakeland Community Association Partnership Inc.

Baltimore Community Toolbank

Locust Point Community Garden

Upper Fells Point Improvement Association

Locust Point Civic Association

Echotopia LLC - Baltimore's 1st Zero Waste Biz

Charm City Land Trust

HB166%20Carlos%20Verbal%20Testimony.pdf.pdf
Uploaded by: Carlos Sanchez
Position: FAV

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

HB0166_Reclaim_Renewable_Energy_Act_MLC_FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante
Position: FAV

MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE COALITION

TESTIMONY FOR HB0166

Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Stewart
Committee: Economic Matters
Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition
Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair
Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0166 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

This bill will ensure that Maryland is NOT subsidizing businesses that produce renewable energy that is not clean. We are in a climate crisis, and we cannot afford to be spending any money on facilities continue to make the problem worse. Not only is it wasteful to subsidize businesses that continue to pollute, it makes it harder to meet the statutory greenhouse gas reductions that are required to reduce the harm caused by climate change.

This bill will eliminate three types of energy from Maryland's RPS: trash incineration, woody biomass, and factory farm methane gas. All three of these types of energy production pollute the environment, harm nearby communities' health, and contribute to climate change. Subsidizing them takes money away from the clean, renewable energy that we need, and it also tilts waste markets toward the worst methods of managing our waste. We should be subsidizing businesses that do not pollute the environment, like wind and solar power, and let the waste sector work on managing waste.

Our members do not approve of state subsidies to businesses that pollute. We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

HB166 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.pdf
Uploaded by: Christina Nemphos
Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition (BTEC). I am a resident of Maryland District 40. **I am testifying in support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024, HB166.**

Maryland needs to take action on climate change,and needs to find ways to do so this year that do not cost any money out of the state budget. As Senate President Ferguson recently said “this is a year about prioritizing the resources that we have.” Over three years, the total subsidies to trash incinerators (including out-of-state companies) through Maryland’s RPS ballooned from $11.5 million in 2020 to $24.7 million in 2022, while a new 2023 study in PLOS Climate found that “incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity produced than any other power source” - including coal plants. That makes this subsidy doubly bad policy for Marylanders and our goals and a perfect target for cuts. This bill does just that by excluding incineration of waste and refuse-derived fuel from the “tier1 renewable source” category of the state’s renewable energy portfolio.

The state isn’t the only stakeholder being forced to pay subsidies to polluting fuel sources under the guise of renewable energy: so are state taxpayers. The RPS subsidy is paid by electric utilities, and ultimately comes out of our utility bills. We deserve to know that when we’re paying for renewable energy, we’re actually helping support the renewable energy we need to fight climate change and clean our air.

Finally, the subject matter experts in the state’s own Department of the Environment and Commission on Climate Change both recently published reports supporting this action.

This is common sense! Please correct this error which grants subsidies to trash incineration operations as they spew greenhouse gases and harmful particulate matter -- often within close proximity to lower income, disenfranchised, black and brown neighborhoods.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024, HB166.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Christina L. Bell (formerly Nemphos)
1301 W. 42nd Street, Baltimore, Md 21211
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

HB166 Testimony (Baltimore City Council _ Favorabl
Uploaded by: Councilman Mark Conway
Position: FAV

Councilman Mark Conway
Baltimore City Council *Fourth District*

100 N. Holliday Street, Suite 550 • Baltimore, Maryland 21202
(410) 396-4830 • mark.conway@baltimorecity.gov

TO: Chair C. T. Wilson; Vice Chair Brian M. Crosby; members of the Economic Matters Committee
FROM: Councilman Mark Conway (District 4)
RE: HB166 (Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024))
POSITION: SUPPORT

Honorable Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and members of the committee,

As members of the Baltimore City Council, we are dedicated to making our city cleaner, greener, and healthier, with more economic opportunity for all. We strongly urge you to pass HB166, to alter the definition of "Tier 1 renewable source" in Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard to exclude trash incineration. This would free up tens of millions of dollars to support real renewable energy by redirecting subsidies away from outdated energy sources, including Baltimore's trash incinerator.

Trash incineration is not clean or renewable energy. Incinerators like the BRESCO trash incinerator in Baltimore emit dangerous pollutants such as mercury and dioxins, contributing to cancer, heart disease, lung disease, and more negative health outcomes in Baltimore City and across the region. Much of the energy that incinerators like BRESCO produce is created by burning products derived from fossil fuels, which are not renewable sources. Trash incineration is the most polluting method of producing electricity, emitting more carbon dioxide per megawatt-hour than even coal. New emissions limits required at the BRESCO incinerator by a court settlement in 2020 do not include any requirement to decrease CO_2 emissions and allow the incinerator to continue to emit mercury and lead, which are not safe for human exposure at any level. There is no justification for diverting much-needed subsidies away from real renewable energy to profit trash incineration.

There are three trash incinerators subsidized by Maryland's RPS: BRESCO here in Baltimore City (operated by a private company which receives these subsidies, not city government), the incinerator in Montgomery County, and another in Lorton, Virginia. Our constituents do not want to be forced to subsidize the incinerator that is polluting the air we breathe; they also do not want to be forced to subsidize incinerators elsewhere in the State.

Instead, we should support new rooftop and brownfield solar development here in Baltimore City to power homes and create green jobs. Redirecting these subsidies will do far more good than throwing away our money on aging trash incinerators that — in the case of BRESCO in Baltimore City — operated profitably for a quarter century before Maryland put trash incineration in Tier 1 of its RPS. In 2022, Maryland wasted $25 million on trash incinerators. By passing the Reclaim Renewable Energy

Act, you will be making that much more money available to support real renewable energy at no financial cost to the state — the fiscally responsible move.

Our city government, local businesses, and constituents are working hard to develop better methods of waste management, reduction, and disposal so that we can send less waste, and ultimately nothing at all, to the incinerator. Community associations and restaurants are composting, businesses are eliminating single-use plastics, school and university cafeterias are rescuing food that would be wasted, and our city government is developing its first food waste composting facility. By subsidizing the trash incinerator as "renewable energy," the State of Maryland is holding us back. These extra profits give the incinerator an economic leg up over the better alternatives that our communities are trying to build. Maryland must stop subsidizing the worst method of disposing of our waste and allow the alternatives to thrive.

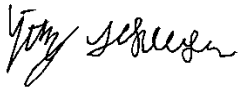
We on the Baltimore City Council are in strong support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (HB166), and we urge you to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

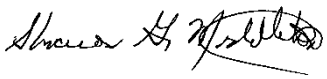
Mark S. Conway, Jr.
Fourth District

Zeke Cohen
First District

Ryan Dorsey
Third District



Yitzy Schleifer
Fifth District



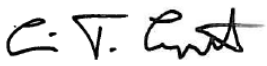
Sharon Green Middleton
Sixth District

James Torrence
Seventh District

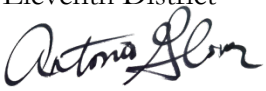
Kristerfer Burnett
Eighth District

John Bullock
Ninth District

Phylicia Porter
Tenth District



Eric Costello
Eleventh District



Antonio Glover
Thirteenth District

Odette Ramos
Fourteen District

MD General Assembly Testimony - SB 0146 _ HB 0166.
Uploaded by: Dante Swinton
Position: FAV

OUR ZERO WASTE FUTURE

Maryland General Assembly Testimony
SB 0146 / HB 0166
Position: Favorable

My name is Dante Swinton, and I am the founder and executive director of Our Zero Waste Future Incorporated. Our mission is to promote awareness on the value of discarded materials by encouraging zero waste behaviors and facilitating thriving communities through cooperative business development. We are in favor of SB 0146 / HB 0166. I have lived in Baltimore since 2014, and I have witnessed the growing disapproval of our trash incinerator - from its host neighborhood of Westport, to residents across the city and region.

First, it is impossible to discuss the continuation or discontinuation of incinerator subsidies without also discussing the impact of the facility on surrounding communities. Identifying incineration as a renewable energy, and thereby providing it with millions of dollars in credits, does not make any sense. This maintains a serial polluter on the same level as wind and solar technologies. Neither wind nor solar power would be active polluters like WIN Waste Baltimore - formerly Wheelabrator Baltimore, and also known as BRESCO - is to the Baltimore community. **The facility is Baltimore City's largest stationary air polluter by far, accounting for 13% of methane emissions, 33% of toxic air emissions, and an incredible 48% of carbon emissions[1].** Image 1 ranks WIN Waste against other stationary polluters in Baltimore City on a number of pollutants.

Every year this proposal emerges, proponents of incineration will state either that WIN Waste and Covanta are "in compliance" with emissions regulations, or that the emissions are negligible compared to vehicles. It is important to recognize two things. One, "compliance" *is not* the same thing as safety, as even short-term exposure to nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter can increase the lifetime risk of cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory diseases, and stroke[2]. Two, incinerator emissions *are not* negligible, as expressed in image 2. WIN Waste, for example, emits the same amount of carbon dioxide as ~141,000 cars each driving 11,500 miles in a year. It also produces enough nitrogen oxides to equal ~127,000 cars each driving 11,500 miles in a year. This is not insignificant pollution, and it is crucial members of the Maryland General Assembly understand this as part of the discussion. Choosing to maintain incinerators as "renewable" energy is both an environmental and economic detriment to Baltimoreans and beyond.

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[1] EPA National Emissions Inventory. https://www.epa.gov/air-emissions-inventories/2020-national-emissions-inventory-nei-data
[2] British Medical Journal. Short-term exposure to air pollution and stroke: systematic review and meta-analysis. https://www.bmj.com/content/350/bmj.h1295

The EPA recognizes that *at least 75%* of our discards are reusable, recyclable, or compostable[3]. Image 3 provides the rough makeup of the waste sent to BRESCO from within Baltimore City, based on EPA figures.

The US Chamber of Commerce Foundation supports a transition to a zero waste economy, stating in its Beyond 34 report that even a 70% diversion rate would unlock *$4.5 trillion* for the national economy by 2030, and that it "could be the biggest economic revolution"[4] of our country's history. We can acknowledge the US Chamber of Commerce would not declare itself as some sort of liberal or "woke" bastion, so the call for a transition to a zero waste economy is universal, regardless if you are a Republican, Democrat, or independent.

Indeed, communities across the country are recognizing the value diverting materials out of incinerators and landfills can bring. We can look to Charlotte's zero waste report, Circular Charlotte, where their vision is to bring zero waste jobs to communities of color and low income communities that have been left behind during the city's growth over the last few decades. The difference in job creation between waste management methods could not be more stark. For every 10,000 tons of material incinerated, you create *one* job. Appropriately, WIN Waste has about 70 employees for the ~725,000 tons of trash it burns annually. And for every 10,000 tons of material landfilled, 4-6 jobs are created. But things begin to shift with recycling, which produces 36 jobs per 10,000 tons of material. Reuse and remanufacturing, however, produces *300* jobs per 10,000 tons of material managed[5]. Image 4 provides these numbers in a graph. Those jobs numbers *cannot* be produced if we continue to use trash incinerators and provide them subsidies in Maryland, as these facilities *cannot* turn any sort of profit without claiming most of the municipal solid waste stream.

The materials incinerated have significant value in the secondary market. Image 5 shows the value per ton of some of the most common materials recycled as of January 2024 in the northeast. This ranges from $92.50 per ton of corrugated cardboard, to $1,210/ton of aluminum cans[6]. Currently, Baltimore sends its recyclables to Recycle America in Elkridge, and pays a tipping fee. This means the city is not garnering any value from the recyclables sold to secondary markets, and is literally burning money with the balance of waste sent to BRESCO - in addition to the tipping fees it wastes with the incinerator.

I urge members of the State Senate and House to make this the year incineration is finally removed from our Renewable Portfolio Standard. Legislators identifying as conservatives often consider themselves as "fiscally responsible," and those identifying as liberals typically express

---

[3] EPA. Advancing Sustainable Materials Management. https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/advancing-sustainable-materials-management

[4] US Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Beyond 34: Recycling and Recovery for a New Economy. https://chamber-foundation.files.svdcdn.com/production/documents/B34CaseStudy_Layout_June20.pdf?dm=1694110497

[5] City of Charlotte. Circular Charlotte: Towards a zero waste and inclusive city. https://www.metabolic.nl/publications/circular-charlotte-pdf/

[6] RecyclingMarkets.net. Secondary materials pricing. https://recyclingmarkets.net/secondarymaterials/index.html

some level of concern for our environment. Removing incineration from Tier 1 of the RPS allows for both stances to win. **A favorable, bipartisan decision will help move Maryland into the 21st century, unlocking an economic revolution.**

Please reach out if you have any questions.

Dante Swinton
Founder and Executive Director
Our Zero Waste Future Incorporated
Ourzwf.org
ourzwf@gmail.com
864-371-2574

HOW WIN WASTE RANKS AMONG OTHER STATIONARY POLLUTERS IN BALTIMORE CITY

Source: EPA National Emissions Inventory

1 CARBON DIOXIDE

>1 billion lbs. annually

2. American Sugar - 240 mil. lbs.
3. Johns Hopkins Hospital - 210 mil. lbs.

2 METHANE

~510,000 lbs. annually

1. Quarantine Road Landfill - 3 mil. lbs.
3. Johns Hopkins Hospital - 12,000 lbs.

1 NITROGEN OXIDES

~2 million lbs. annually

2. American Sugar - 270,000 lbs.
3. Vicinity - 259,000 lbs.

1 SULFUR DIOXIDE

575,000 lbs. annually

1. Gold Bond - 18,000 lbs.
2. Buckeye Terminals- 17,000 lbs.

1 LEAD

~400 lbs. annually

2. Pier 7 - 20 lbs.
3. UM Baltimore - 1 lb.

1 MERCURY

~90 lbs. annually

2. US Gypsum - 40 lbs.
3. Kaydon Ring - < 1 lb.

4 PARTICULATE MATTER 2.5

~18,600 lbs. annually

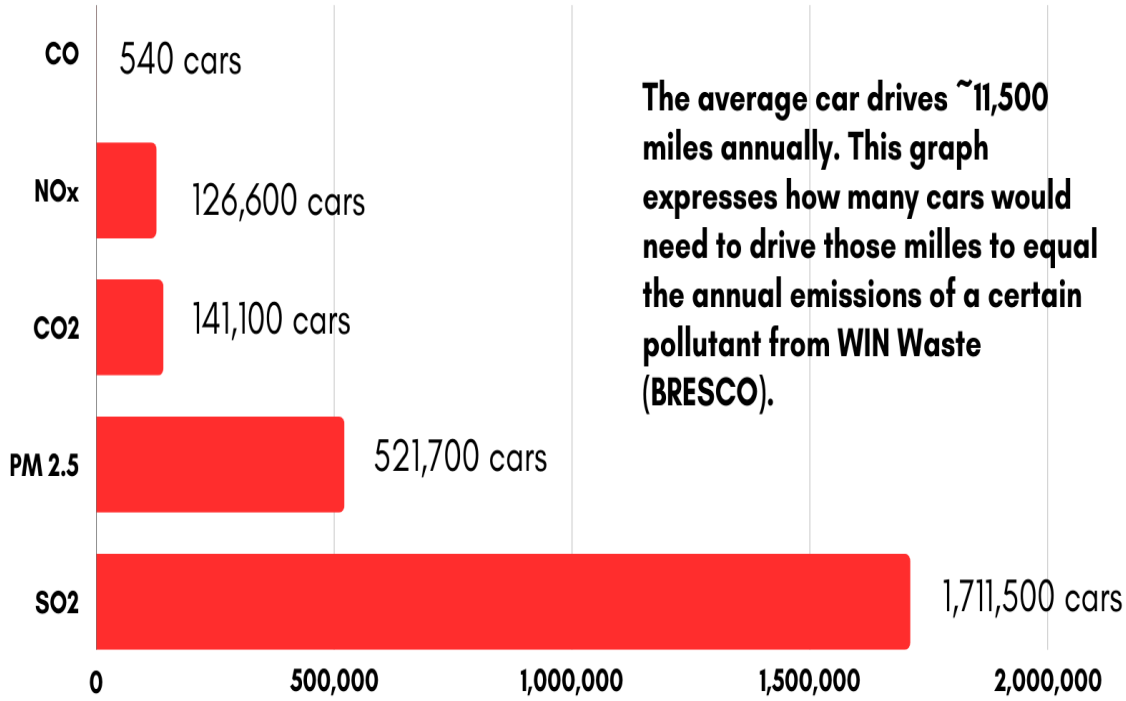
1. W.R. Grace - 219,500 lbs.
2. Gold Bond - 35,000 lbs.

2 FORMALDEHYDE

~3,900 lbs. annually

1. Gold Bond - 5,600 lbs.
3. US Gypsum - 2,900 lbs.

But just how dirty is WIN Waste Baltimore (BRESCO)?

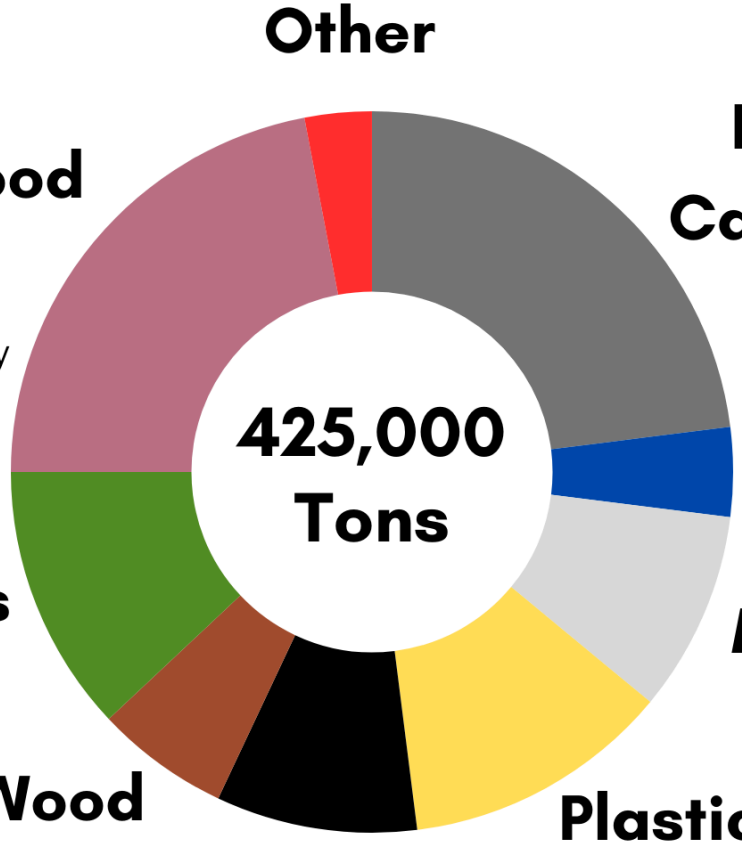


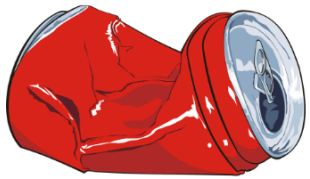
The average car drives ~11,500 miles annually. This graph expresses how many cars would need to drive those milles to equal the annual emissions of a certain pollutant from WIN Waste (BRESCO).

Sources for calculations: EPA, EPA National Emissions Inventory

So what's in the trash?

Baltimore send approximately 425,000 tons of trash to the incinerator through public and private sources annually.





Working Sources: EPA, MDE

JOBS, JOBS, JOBS

Jobs per 10,000 Tons of Material Processed

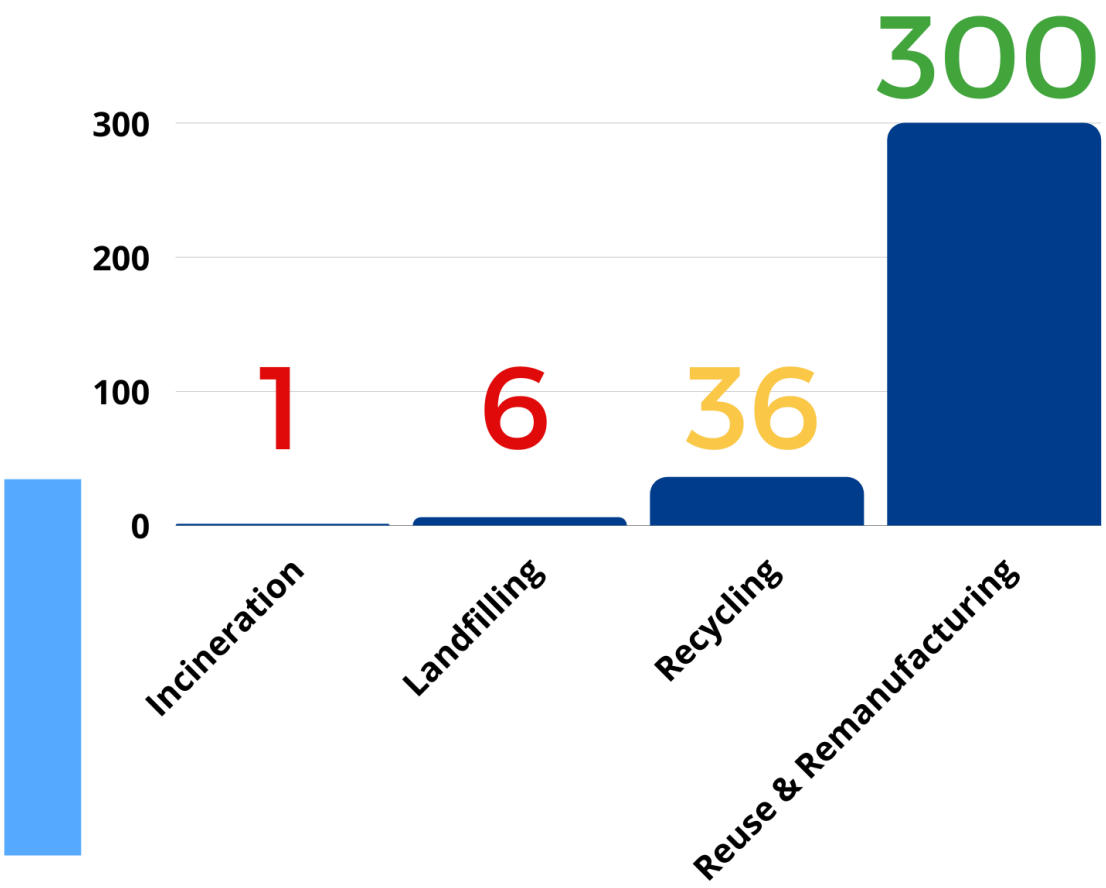
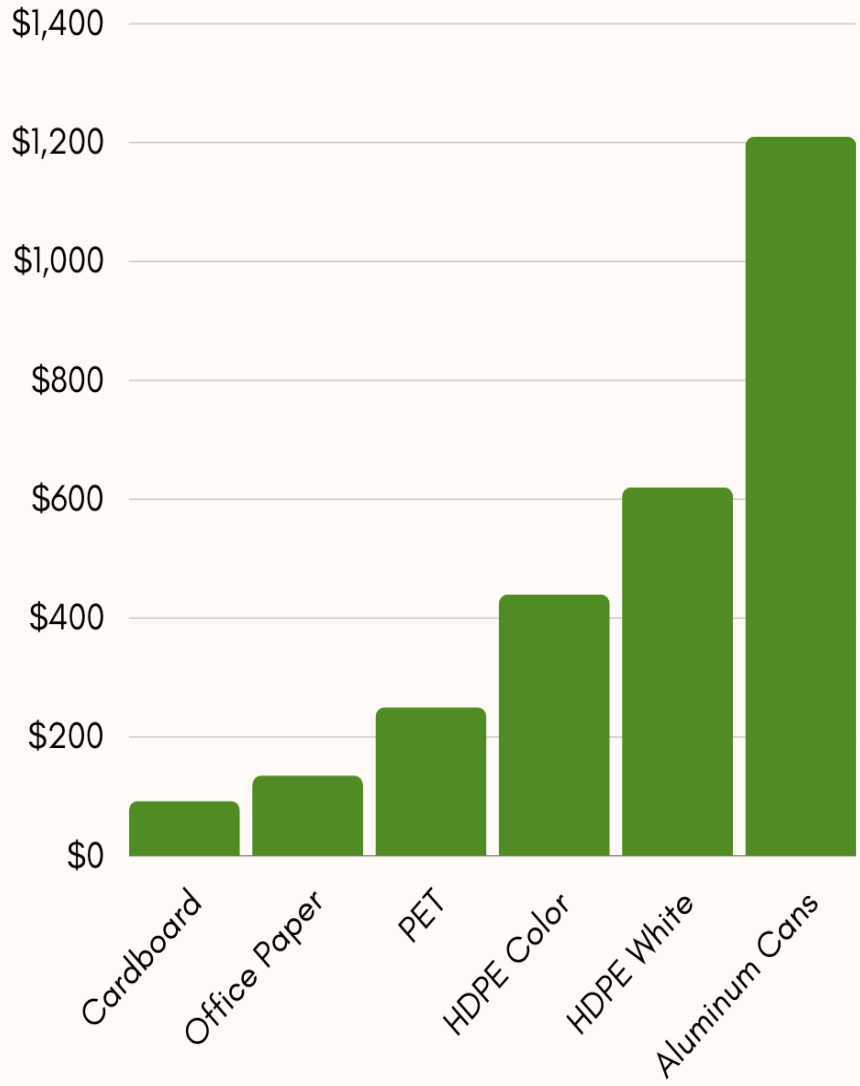


Image 2. Job creation per 10,000 tons of materials processed. Sources: Circular Charlotte, EPA, Institute for Local Self-Reliance

TRASH INTO TREASURE

The stuff we throw away could make us money

Material values per ton in the northeast, as of January 2024



Source: recyclingmarkets.net/secondarymaterials

HB166 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.pdf
Uploaded by: Daryl Yoder
Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coaltion (BTEC). I am a resident of District 44A. **I am testifying in support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024, HB166.**

Maryland needs to take action on climate change, and needs to find ways to do so this year that do not cost any money out of the state budget. As Senate President Ferguson recently said “this is a year about prioritizing the resources that we have.” Over three years, the total subsidies to trash incinerators (including out-of-state companies) through Maryland’s RPS ballooned from $11.5 million in 2020 to $24.7 million in 2022, while a new 2023 study in PLOS Climate found that “incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity produced than any other power source” - including coal plants. That makes this subsidy doubly bad policy for Marylanders and our goals and a perfect target for cuts. This bill does just that by excluding incineration of waste and refuse-derived fuel from the “tier1 renewable source” category of the state’s renewable energy portfolio.

The state isn’t the only stakeholder being being forced to pay subsidies to polluting fuel sources under the guise of renewable energy: so are state taxpayers. The RPS subsidy is paid by electric utilities, and ultimately comes out of our utility bills. We deserve to know that when we’re paying for renewable energy, we’re actually helping support the renewable energy we need to fight climate change and clean our air.

Finally, the subject matter experts in the state’s own Department of the Environment and Commission on Climate Change both recently published reports supporting this action.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024, HB166.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Daryl Yoder
309 Glenmore Ave.
Catonsville, MD 21228
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

HB0166 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024 - Favo

Uploaded by: Dave Arndt

Position: FAV

Testimony Supporting HB0166
Economic Matters Committee
March 5, 2024
Position: SUPPORT

Submitted by: Dave Arndt

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

As a resident of Baltimore, MD, I am writing to express my strong support of HB0166, which will make sure that our subsidies for renewable energy through the Renewable Portfolio Standard are going toward actual renewable energy. We are in a climate crisis, and we cannot afford to be spending our renewable energy money on facilities that emit greenhouse gasses - now is the time to double down Maryland's commitment to truly renewable energy and subsidize only facilities that are emissions-free.

Burning trash pollutes the environment, harms nearby communities' health, and contribute to climate change: a bad investment of public dollars that every Maryland utility ratepayer contributes to. Every Renewable Energy Credit that goes toward a facility that emits greenhouse gasses is a Renewable Energy Credit taken away from a facility that does not - an egregious waste of public money.

Because of the inclusion of these polluters in the Renewable Portfolio Standard, Maryland ratepayers paid over $30 million to buy Renewable Energy Credits from facilities that emit greenhouse gasses in 2020, and over $246 million since 2008. The Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility estimates that if nothing changes, those costs will mount to half a billion dollars subsidizing polluters by 2030. Please support HB0166 so that those dollars can go toward supporting wind, solar, hydro, and geothermal power - not greenhouse gas emissions.

The Baltimore region ranks among the worst in the U.S. for air pollution. Baltimore has two active trash incinerators and decades of pollution from both active and decommissioned industrial factories. A study by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in 2017 found air quality in the region was ranked moderate or worse one of every three days, according to the EPA's Air Quality Index. The same study notes poor air quality triggers asthma and can cause other health issues. Little wonder then that children in Baltimore City have asthma at twice the rate of the rest of the country, and the hospitalization rate for pediatric asthma is one of the highest in the nation, as a 2017 report by the Environmental Integrity Project showed.

The private-equity-owned Bresco/Wheelabrator incinerator—recently rebranded, or greenwashed, as WIN Waste Innovations—is alongside six communities of color and low-income communities, which fits a pattern of environmental and social injustice around the world. The Bresco incinerator has been burning around 700,000 tons of waste every year for 35 years and is the city's single worst air polluter. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation study found that the illness and ailments caused by air polluted by the incineration alone cost $55 million a year in health damages to residents. This is just one of the heavy costs dumped on Black and poor residents by a private corporation. Because Maryland classifies incineration as recycling, Bresco receives state subsidies for renewable energy–nearly $10 million over the past six years. In addition, Baltimore pays an extra $52 per ton to burn trash.

Community Impact

When I do Composting Workshops at schools, I ask if they are affected by asthma and cancer. The response is that 98% of the students have asthma, and several of their family members have cancer. At this point, to illustrate the effects to me, the teacher opens a desk drawer, and pulls out a storage bag full of inhalers. Most of these schools can't field a youth athletic team due to the students having compromised respiratory issues.

Subsidizing dirty energy is a bad deal for Maryland.

- Maryland RPS program spends millions of dollars on a Virginia biomass facility that is too dirty to qualify for Virginia's own recently-enacted RPS.
- Most RPS facilities are located outside of Maryland provide no energy to Maryland energy suppliers. Trash incinerators in Maryland provide less than 1% of all of Maryland's electricity. There loss would not be noticed in Maryland.
- Emissions from dirty energy sources in the RPS overwhelm emission reductions from truly renewable energy. In its 2019 report reviewing the RPS in response to 2017's HB1414, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources found that our state's RPS "has played a small role" in emissions reductions, and had nothing to do with most of the reductions in CO2 emissions we have seen in the past two decades. As of 2017, grid-wide CO2 emissions per megawatt hour , "PJM-wide CO2 emissions per MWh in 2017, the latest year available, were approximately 0.8% lower than they would have been absent the Maryland RPS, assuming all retired RECs supported resources that would not have operated otherwise." Under the status quo, Maryland's RPS is not doing enough to drive down greenhouse gas emissions.
- In its 2019 report reviewing the RPS in response to 2017's HB1414, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources found that the pollution from combustion-based energy sources included in the RPS is so great that Maryland RPS energy sources, on average, pollute as much or more SO2 and NOx than the grid as a whole - pollutants that significantly contribute to asthma and other health hazards.

Subsidizing trash incineration and landfill gas tilts the playing field against healthier, cheaper waste management.

- When the RPS was created in 2004, trash incineration was in "Tier 2" of the RPS and received lower subsidies than they actually renewable energy in Tier 1, and those smaller subsidies were to be phased out by 2019. It wasn't until 2011, in response to intense industry pressure, that incineration was made permanently a part of the same subsidized category as wind and solar.
- New trash incinerators were proposed for Baltimore City and Frederick and Carroll Counties, but residents campaigned and prevented them from being built because of the enormous pollution burden and economic costs they would have brought. In Baltimore City and Montgomery County, home of Maryland's remaining incinerators, residents are actively campaigning to close them as well.
- To produce the same amount of energy, Maryland's two subsidy-receiving incinerators emit higher levels of mercury, lead, nitrogen oxides (NOx), carbon monoxide (CO), and carbon dioxide

(CO2) than Maryland's coal plants. In 2015, the BRESCO incinerator in Baltimore emitted about twice as much greenhouses gasses per amount of energy produced, on average, as each of the coal plants located in Maryland.

- Artificial subsidies make incinerators seem artificially cheaper compared to methods of managing our waste that produce neither pollution nor energy: like composting, repurposing, and source reduction. Although trash incineration and producing methane from waste receive RPS subsidies for producing energy despite their pollution impacts, composting is better for the environment than either. According to the EPA: "composting lowers greenhouse gasses by improving carbon sequestration in the soil and by preventing methane emissions through aerobic decomposition, as methane-producing microbes are not active in the presence of oxygen." 50% of the average municipal waste stream can be composted.

For all of these reasons and many more, please support HB0166 and end "renewable energy" subsidies for greenhouse gas emitting energy sources in Maryland. Thank you.

Dave Arndt

Retired Chemical Engineer and Climate, Environmental and Social Justice Advocate

HB166 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.pdf
Uploaded by: Erica Palmisano
Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition (BTEC). I am a resident of 12A. **I am testifying in support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024, HB166.**

Maryland needs to take action on climate change, and needs to find ways to do so this year that do not cost any money out of the state budget. As Senate President Ferguson recently said “this is a year about prioritizing the resources that we have.” Over three years, the total subsidies to trash incinerators (including out-of-state companies) through Maryland’s RPS ballooned from $11.5 million in 2020 to $24.7 million in 2022, while a new 2023 study in PLOS Climate found that “incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity produced than any other power source” - including coal plants. That makes this subsidy doubly bad policy for Marylanders and our goals and a perfect target for cuts. This bill does just that by excluding incineration of waste and refuse-derived fuel from the “tier1 renewable source” category of the state’s renewable energy portfolio.

The state isn’t the only stakeholder being forced to pay subsidies to polluting fuel sources under the guise of renewable energy: so are state taxpayers. The RPS subsidy is paid by electric utilities, and ultimately comes out of our utility bills. We deserve to know that when we’re paying for renewable energy, we’re actually helping support the renewable energy we need to fight climate change and clean our air.

Finally, the subject matter experts in the state’s own Department of the Environment and Commission on Climate Change both recently published reports supporting this action.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024, HB166.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Erica Palmisano
5580 Vantage Point Rd, Apt 5, Columbia, MD
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

HB166rpscleanup2024.pdf
Uploaded by: Gwen DuBois
Position: FAV

HB0166
Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard- Eligible Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024).
Economic Matters
March 7, 2024
FAVORABLE (SUPPORT)

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility (CPSR) supports HB0166. We are a statewide evidenced-based, organization of over 900 physicians, and other health professionals and supporters, that addresses the existential public health threats: nuclear weapons, the climate crisis and the issues of pollution and toxics' effect on health as seen through the intersectional lens of environmental, social and racial justice. As an organization founded by physicians, we understand that prevention is far superior to treatment in reducing costs; death, illness, injury, and suffering.

Incineration should come out of the Renewable Portfolio Standard and should never have been there in the first place. Waste-to-energy incineration is more polluting and produces more C02 per unit of energy than even coal fired power plants.[1] Incineration emits nitrous oxide (N20), another greenhouse gas[2] which is emitted during the combustion of solid waste. Trucks hauling waste to and from incinerators are an important source of additional greenhouse gases.[3]

This bill is not intended to shut down incinerators, only to remove subsidies that are designed for clean renewable energy. Removing incinerators will allow credits to go to and subsidize truly renewable energy. Incinerators out of state and in state should not be entitled to receive credits from the Renewable Portfolio Standards.

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility is concerned by the additional health harms from incineration including Baltimore's Wheelabrator municipal waste incinerator, which was identified as the single largest industrial polluter in Baltimore in 2017.[4] It emits mercury, dioxin,

[1] https://environmentalintegrity.org/news/eip-report-waste-to-energy-incinerators-pollute-more-per-of-hour-of-energy-than-coal-fired-power-plants-and-are-not-renewable/
[2] https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/overview-greenhouse-gases#nitrous-oxide
[3] https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions#:~:text=Transportation%20(28%25%20of%202021%20greenhouse,ships%2C%20trains%2C%20and%20planes.
[4] https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/environment/bs-md-trash-incineration-20171107-story.html

nitrogen oxides and just one year's direct and indirect health costs from PM2.5 (fine and ultrafine particulate matter) in Maryland was estimated to be nearly $22 million.[5] This bill won't eliminate that pollution, because it doesn't shut the incinerators down. It just eliminates a subsidy incinerator shouldn't have been receiving in the first place. Spending that money, that has been profiting the trash incinerators, on renewable energy development instead, will clean our grid and clean our air.

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility supports HB0166, removing incineration from the Renewable Portfolio Standards. We should not be subsidizing that which is increasing greenhouse gases and other health harms.

Gwen L. DuBois MD, MPH
President, Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
gdubois@jhsph.edu
https://www.chesapeakepsr.org/

[5] https://www.cbf.org/document-library/cbf-reports/thurston-wheelabrator-health-impacts-2017.pdf

HB166 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.pdf
Uploaded by: Holly Powell
Position: FAV

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This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coaltion (BTEC). I am a resident of **District 46. I am testifying in support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024, HB166.**

Maryland needs to take action on climate change, and needs to find ways to do so this year that do not cost any money out of the state budget. As Senate President Ferguson recently said "this is a year about prioritizing the resources that we have." Over three years, the total subsidies to trash incinerators (including out-of-state companies) through Maryland's RPS ballooned from $11.5 million in 2020 to $24.7 million in 2022, while a new 2023 study in PLOS Climate found that "incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity produced than any other power source" - including coal plants. That makes this subsidy doubly bad policy for Marylanders and our goals and a perfect target for cuts. This bill does just that by excluding incineration of waste and refuse-derived fuel from the "tier1 renewable source" category of the state's renewable energy portfolio.

The state isn't the only stakeholder being being forced to pay subsidies to polluting fuel sources under the guise of renewable energy: so are state taxpayers. The RPS subsidy is paid by electric utilities, and ultimately comes out of our utility bills. We deserve to know that when we're paying for renewable energy, we're actually helping support the renewable energy we need to fight climate change and clean our air.

Finally, the subject matter experts in the state's own Department of the Environment and Commission on Climate Change both recently published reports supporting this action.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024, HB166.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Holly Powell
2308 Cambridge Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21224
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

House CCAN Testimony for Reclaim Renewables 2024.p
Uploaded by: Jamie DeMarco
Position: FAV

Testimony in Support of The Reclaim Renewables Act
HB0166
Economic Matters Committee
3/7/2024

Jamie DeMarco, Maryland Director
Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund

On behalf of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund, I urge a favorable report on HB0166

As the Moore Administration stated in Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, the state of Maryland should not subsidize burning trash as a source of electricity. The incinerators that Maryland subsidizes through the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) existed for decades before they were added to tier 1 of the RPS, and they will exist after they are no longer included in the RPS. The $26 million that Maryland ratepayers give to trash incinerators every year does nothing to create new electricity generation. If trash were removed from the RPS then those 26 million dollars could go to helping to create new wind and solar generation which will lower energy costs, improve air quality, and reduce carbon pollution.

Ending subsidies for trash incineration would have no impact on the amount of trash that is incinerated or the amount of trash going to landfills. The only real world change that ending the subsidies would cause is for more wind and solar to be built.

This is a bill about not waisting ratepayer dollars on facilities that do not need and and don't deserve them, and reinvesting those valuable dollars into truly clean, renewable sources that benefit Marylanders.

Respectfully,
Jamie DeMarco

CONTACT
Jamie DeMarco, Maryland Director
jamie@chesapeakeclimate.org, 443-845-5601

240305 MD HB 0166 ltr JJudd.pdf
Uploaded by: Jeanne Judd
Position: FAV

March 5, 2024

Dear Chair Wilson and Members of the Committee,

As a resident of Prince George's County in Maryland, I am writing to express my strong support of HB166, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

I believe that Maryland is wasting taxpayers' dollars subsidizing trash incineration. Over three years, due to the market-based nature of the subsidy, the total subsidies to trash incinerators through Maryland's RPS ballooned from $11.5 million in 2020 to $24.7 million in 2022. This is an incredible windfall for the incinerators, and bad for Marylanders. We can not afford to keep wasting increasing amounts of money profiting something that's not putting renewable energy on the grid.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Judd

2909 Tremont Ave
Cheverly, MD

MD Gen Assembly Mar 07 2024 testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: jeffrey barnes
Position: FAV

PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND
P.O. Box 7595, Largo MD 20792
ProgressiveMaryland.org
Info@progressivemaryland.org

Mar 05 2024

Testimony in Support of HB166: Jeffrey Barnes

Jeffrey Barnes for Progressive Maryland-Environmental Task Force
4209 Audrey Ave #1
Baltimore, MD 21225
March 05 2024

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

As a resident of the 46th district and a Maryland ratepayer and a resident concerned about the quality of air we breath, I am writing to express my strong support of HB166, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

Part of a governments' role is to safeguard the collective public interest and clean air is certainly a very important public interest. Maryland's government should not be expending money towards polluting our air. Instead the government should be spending funds towards clean, renewable energy sources.

I believe our government is wasting our taxpayers dollars by contributing to the burning of trash for energy, under the guise of trash burning being a clean, renewable energy source. This clearly is not a truth. Trash burning is not renewable nor clean under any definition and to continue to expend our money towards an entity that is burning trash while claiming to be renewable is a shame and an embarrassment. Dollars are tight and I feel we should be more responsible in how we spend taxpayers dollars.

For too long, our state's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) has been compromised by the inclusion of sources like waste incineration. These so-called "renewables" come at a heavy cost: air and water pollution, public health risks, and environmental degradation. They are not green solutions; they are greenwashing.

For years, we have touted Maryland as a leader in renewable energy, but our definition of "renewable" has been flawed. HB166 corrects this mistake by removing trash incineration from our Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS). This source, while marketed as green, is riddled with problems. Trash incineration spews air and water

pollution, harming public health and contributing to climate change. Those facilities disproportionately burden marginalized communities with environmental injustice, placing them on the front lines of pollution and health risks. Including trash incineration in the RPS inflates our progress towards clean energy goals, creating a misleading picture of our emissions reduction efforts.

Opponents of this bill may argue that it will hinder Maryland's progress towards its RPS goals. But I urge you to consider: are we truly making progress if we're relying on false solutions that cause more harm than good? The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act is not about slowing down; it's about setting the right course.

As I understand it, multiple Maryland state government agencies supports eliminating the payments under the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to incinerators. They are emitters of CO2, mercury and lead which are not safe at any level. We are paying over 24 million dollars a year to trash incinerators as of 2022 and the reality is this money is doing nothing to add clean, renewable energy sources to the power grid. This is almost madness. Trash incinerators as clean and renewable? No reasonable person could think that is true. It simply is not and our laws must reflect that reality. You all must correct a mistake made years ago when trash burning incinerators were added as a clean and renewable energy source. How that aberration occurred is not important. Correcting that error now is. I live about 4 miles from the incinerator here in Baltimore and I feel the effects of the pollutants daily.

Finally, this issue is not a matter of competing, reasonable interest. Maryland gives over 24 million dollars a year to trash incinerators under the guise of contributing to clean renewable energy. It was a mistake made. This bill simply corrects a wrong. It's that simple. You must pass HB166.

That's my take as a voter, homeowner, taxpayer and an air breathing human. I urge you, members, to stand on the right side of history. Pass HB166 and show Marylanders that we are all serious about clean energy, environmental justice, and a healthy future for our state. Let's send a clear message that we will not be fooled by greenwashing.

HB0166 - 87 organization sign on - FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Jennifer Kunze
Position: FAV

Testimony Supporting HB166
House Economic Matters Committee
March 7, 2024

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Wilsonand Members of the Committee,

The undersigned **87 organizations** urge you to pass the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (HB166) to stop wasting Maryland residents' money and make more funding available for real renewable energy - at no additional cost to the state budget. Trash incineration is neither clean nor renewable; its inclusion in the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) is counter to the program's goals. Maryland ratepayers would be better served if their funds currently subsidizing trash incineration were supporting real renewable energy instead. With both government and advocate support, 2024 is the year to eliminate trash incineration from the RPS.

The purpose of the RPS is to support clean, renewable energy, which Maryland needs now more than ever. When establishing the RPS in 2004, the legislature wrote that the benefits of renewable energy include "long-term decreased emissions" and "a healthier environment." Since 2004, the urgency of supporting renewable energy development in Maryland and throughout our grid has only become greater. Maryland must urgently act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and carefully assess how we are spending the state's resources to fight climate change, including the effectiveness of the Renewable Portfolio Standard program at delivering long-term decreased emissions and a healthier environment.

Maryland is wasting an increasing amount of RPS money on trash incineration, much of it out of state. Over three years, due to the market-based nature of the subsidy (the amount of electricity produced by incinerators has not increased), the total subsidies to trash incinerators through Maryland's RPS ballooned from $11.5 million in 2020 to $24.7 million in 2022. In 2022, the BRESCO incinerator in Baltimore received $4.2 million; the Montgomery County incinerator in Dickerson received $8.7 million, and the Covanta incinerator in Lorton, VA, received a windfall of $11.7 million - twice as much as Montgomery County's incinerator and three times as much as the incinerator in Baltimore. If these trends continue and trash incineration remains in the RPS, Maryland ratepayers will be increasingly harmed: we will be wasting ever-increasing amounts of money, much of it out of state, that isn't putting renewable power on the grid.

Trash incineration is not clean, renewable energy and is contradictory to the goals of the RPS. Trash incineration is among the dirtiest methods of producing electricity. A new 2023 study in PLOS Climate found that "incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity produced than *any* other power source" - even coal plants. EPA's Emissions Inventory indicates that in 2020, the three trash incinerators profiting from Maryland's RPS emitted 2.5 million tons of CO2 into the atmosphere. New emissions limits required at the BRESCO incinerator by a court settlement in 2020 do not include *any* requirement to decrease CO2 emissions and allow the incinerator to continue to emit mercury and lead, which are not safe for

human exposure at any level. In its Final Report Concerning the Maryland Renewable Portfolio Standard, the Maryland Power Plant Research Program analyzed the emissions profile of the Renewable Portfolio Standard and found that "the Maryland RPS has resulted in modest greenhouse gas reductions but may be working at cross-purposes with the state's efforts to reduce nitrogen oxides (NOx) and sulfur dioxide (SO2) emissions," in part because of the inclusion of trash incineration. In the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act, the legislature has a choice between making millions of dollars available to support real renewable energy that delivers long-term decreased emissions and a healthier environment, or to support trash incineration. The choice is clear: Maryland should support energy sources that emit no CO2, mercury, or lead, instead of those that do.

Eliminating trash incineration from the RPS is a budget-neutral means of making more money available for renewable energy. Maryland needs to invest in climate solutions, and finding funding for the $1 billion per year called for in Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan poses a significant challenge as the state budget contracts. Analyses consistently show that passing the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act is not associated with a financial cost to the state. Instead it will redistribute the subsidy Maryland ratepayers already pay that had been wasted profiting trash incinerators to support renewable energy sources that remain in the RPS.

This action is recommended in Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan. In the plan released last month, the Maryland Department of the Environment recommends aligning the Renewable Portfolio Standard with the forthcoming Clean Power Standard. Although details of the Clean Power Standard are under development, one important detail is clear: the plan specifies that the Clean Power Standard will not include trash incineration (pages 21, 23). On page 90, the plan lists recommended legislative actions, including:

> *Legislative Action #2: Modify the Renewable Portfolio Standard - In consultation with MDE and MEA, pass legislation to modify the definitions of qualifying resources in the RPS to align with definitions of clean power resources under the forthcoming Clean Power Standard.*

Likewise, the **Maryland Commission on Climate Change's 2023 Annual Report** recommends:

> *Mitigation Working Group Recommendation #18: Due to the energy source's contributions to the state's GHG emissions, the General Assembly should adopt legislation to remove municipal solid waste incineration as an eligible generating source from the RPS.*

Maryland governmental bodies, climate experts, renewable energy business, environmental and environmental justice advocates, and community organizations are united: burning trash is not clean energy, and Maryland must stop subsidizing it through the Renewable Portfolio Standard.

Sincerely,

Mid-Atlantic Justice Coalition
Clean Water Action
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Food and Water Watch
Indivisible HoCoMD
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
Progressive Maryland
Institute for Local Self-Reliance
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Environmental Justice Ministry
Mountain Maryland Movement
Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Centro de Apoyo Familiar
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
CASA
Maryland PIRG
Environment Maryland
League of Women Voters of Maryland
Cleanwater Linganore Inc.
Climate Communications Coalition
Concerned Citizens Against Industrial CAFOS (CCAIC)
Waterkeepers Chesapeake
Sugarloaf Citizens Association
Environmental Integrity Project
Envision Frederick County
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
Safe Healthy Playing Fields Inc
Friends of Sligo Creek
Elders Climate Action
Ask the Climate Question
South Baltimore Community Land Trust
Zero Waste Montgomery County
Howard County Climate Action
Fellowship of Scientists and Engineers
Sugarloaf Alliance
Maryland Legislative Coalition
Gwynns Falls Community Association
Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing
National Aquarium
Maryland Energy Advocates
Nuclear Information and Resource Service
The Climate Mobilization, Montgomery County chapter
Mobilize Frederick
Climate Law & Policy Project

Echotopia LLC
Baltimore Phil Berrigan Memorial Chapter Veterans For Peace
Compost Crew
Maryland Latinos Unidos (MLU)
Beyond Extreme Energy
350.org
Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition
Climate Reality Greater Maryland
Third Act Maryland
Casa de Restauracion Hispana Cristiana
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home
Baltimore 350
Ebenezer Church of God
Milagros de Jesucristo Inc
Maryland Green Party
Blue Water Baltimore
Community Development Network of Maryland
Sentinels of Eastern Shore Health
The Center for Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health (CEEJH)
1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East
Green Sanctuary Committee of the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Silver Spring
Audubon Mid-Atlantic
Earthjustice
Baltimore Community ToolBank
Biodiversity for a Livable Climate
Sustainable Hyattsville
Climate Change Working Group of Frederick County
Potomac Riverkeeper Network
Gunpowder Riverkeeper
Neighborhood Sun
Maryland Ornithological Society
Iglesia Pentecostes Manantiales de Agua Vivia
Timothy Baptist Church
#CoalFreeCurtisBay
Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Laurel, MD
BWCUMC Creation Care Team
Women's Democratic Club of Montgomery County
One Montgomery Green
UFCW Local 1994 MCGEO
Chesapeake Earth First!
Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake
North Avenue and Hilton Street Business and Community Taskforce

HB0166 - Factsheet - FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Jennifer Kunze
Position: FAV

HB166/SB146

Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

We're in a climate crisis.

We're in a budget shortfall.

So why are we wasting $25 million a year subsidizing trash incinerators instead of renewable energy?

Maryland created the Renewable Portfolio Standard to increase the amount of renewable energy on the grid, to deliver long-term decreased emissions and a healthier environment. Utilities subsidize renewable energy through this program increasingly over time.

Trash incineration is among the dirtiest ways to produce electricity. Incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity produced than any other power source, even coal plants. Incinerators emit mercury and lead into the air nearby communities breathe, which are not safe for human exposure at any level.

Subsidizing trash incineration isn't getting Maryland electricity that delivers decreased greenhouse gas emissions or a healthier environment. But **Maryland is wasting a lot of money profiting trash incinerators**, because right now, trash incineration counts as "renewable" in the RPS.

We're wasting more and more money over time subsidizing trash incineration:

2020: $11.5 million

2021: $14.9 million

2022: $24.7 million

We're wasting a lot of that money out of state. In 2022, we spent:

$4.2 million on the incinerator in Baltimore City

$8.7 million on the incinerator in Montgomery County

$11.7 million on the incinerator in Lorton, Virginia

We need to start spending that money on REAL renewable energy to fight the climate crisis instead.

What's the solution?

HB166/SB146, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act, deletes trash incineration from the list of "renewable energy" sources that qualify for Maryland's RPS. This will open up more space in Maryland's RPS for supporting the emissions-free electricity Maryland actually needs to fight climate change.

Maryland needs to invest in climate solutions, and finding funding for the $1 billion per year that MDE's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan calls for will be a significant challenge. The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act redistributes the subsidy that Maryland utilities, and by extension Maryland ratepayers, are already paying. It will make more money available to support real renewable energy **at no cost to the state budget.**

This solution is endorsed by:

Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan

"This plan calls for the definitions of qualifying resources in the RPS program to align with definitions of clean power resources under the forthcoming Clean Power Standard, including the elimination of eligibility for municipal solid waste incineration. Legislation will be needed to change the RPS definitions, which are set in the state's statute." (page 21)

List of recommended legislative actions, #2: "Modify the Renewable Portfolio Standard — In consultation with MDE and MEA, pass legislation to modify the definitions of qualifying resources in the RPS to align with definitions of clean power resources under the forthcoming Clean Power Standard."

The Maryland Commission on Climate Change's 2023 Annual Report

Mitigation Working Group Recommendation #18: "Due to the energy source's contributions to the state's GHG emissions, the General Assembly should adopt legislation to remove municipal solid waste incineration as an eligible generating source from the RPS."

More than 80 Maryland climate, environment, environmental justice, clean energy, and community organizations.

More money for renewable energy.
No money out of the state budget.
Pass the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

CLEAN WATER ACTION

Jennifer Kunze, Maryland Organizing Director, jkunze@cleanwater.org
145 W Ostend St, Unit 600, Baltimore, MD 21230
Email: baltimore@cleanwater.org
𝕏@CleanWater_MD @CleanWaterActionMD @cleanwatermd
cleanwater.org/maryland

HB0166 - Jennifer Kunze - Clean Water Action - FAV

Uploaded by: Jennifer Kunze

Position: FAV

Testimony Supporting HB166
House Economic Matters Committee
March 7, 2024

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Wilson and Members of the Committee,

Clean Water Action strongly urges you to pass the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act, HB166, in the 2024 legislative session. As the state moves forward with ambitious climate pollution reduction goals requiring significant investments while simultaneously tightening the state's budget, ensuring that we are investing our existing renewable energy money in the right places is more necessary than ever. The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act, by eliminating trash incineration from the Renewable Portfolio Standard and creating space in the program that will be filled by the remaining eligible sources, will create significant new investments in renewable energy without costing the state budget a penny.

Maryland is wasting an increasing amount of money on the RPS, much of it out of state.

New analysis released this week reveals that between 2012 and 2022, Maryland energy providers spent about **$100 million** subsidizing trash incinerators through Maryland's RPS. If trash incineration remains in the RPS, this waste will get much worse. The analysis projects that unless trash incineration is eliminated from Maryland's RPS, Maryland energy providers will spend an additional **$200 million** subsidizing trash incinerators through Maryland's RPS by 2030, for a **total $300 million wasted**.

Analysis of the last three years of data available from the Public Service Commission shows that the average price per REC from trash incinerators is increasing dramatically, wasting more Maryland money on an energy source that does not put clean energy onto our grid.

	2020 ($7.99/REC)	**2021** ($15.46/REC)	**2022** ($22.96/REC)	**Total, 2020--2022**
BRESCO **(Baltimore City)**	257,366 RECs $2.1 million	319,505 RECs $4.9 million	183,101 RECs $4.2 million	**$11.2 million**
Dickerson **(Montgomery County)**	295,613 RECs $2.4 million	437,489 RECs $6.8 million	382,233 RECs $8.7 million	**$17.9 million**
Covanta **(Lorton, VA)**	882,086 RECs $7.0 million	205,764 RECs $3.2 million	511,045 RECs $11.7 million	**$21.9 million**
TOTAL	**1,435,065 RECs** **$11.5 million**	**962,758 RECs** **$14.9 million**	**1,076,379 RECs** **$24.7 million**	**$51 million**

Trash incinerators have received an incredible windfall in recent years from Maryland's RPS, while producing no more energy, let alone clean and renewable energy. That windfall is mostly

benefiting an out-of-state incinerator in Lorton, VA. This is a terrible waste of Maryland ratepayers' money that could be supporting the renewable energy we need to clean our grid.

Trash incineration pollutes significantly more than other sources of energy. The Department of Natural Resources' Power Plant Research Program's Final Report Concerning the Maryland Renewable Portfolio Standard analyzed the emissions profile of resources used to meet the Maryland RPS in 2017, including the CO2 emitted per MWh by different eligible categories.

Table 2-8. Emissions Profile of Resources Used to Meet the Maryland RPS, 2017

	Fuel Source	RECs[1] (MWh)	Share	CO_2/ MWh[2]	NOx/ MWh[2]	SO_2/ MWh[2]
TIER 1	Agr. Biomass	345	0.0%	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Black Liquor	1,668,231	18.5	506.736	1.295	7.513
	Geothermal	1,880	0.0	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Hydro	882,114	9.8	0.000	0.000	0.000
	LFG	227,393	2.5	111.173	10.910	0.394
	MSW	732,424	8.1	2,368.188	4.135	0.493
	Biogas	11,284	0.1	55.556	0.000	0.000
	Solar (incl. Solar Thermal)	557,224	6.2	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Wood Waste	491,627	5.4	339.075	1.266	0.220
	Wind	3,002,388	33.3	0.000	0.000	0.000
TIER 2	Hydro	1,450,950	16.1%	0.000	0.000	0.000
	TOTAL	**9,025,860**				
	Weighted Average (Tier 1)			**366.008**	**1.095**	**1.728**
	Weighted Average (Tiers 1 & 2)			**307.170**	**0.919**	**1.451**

[1] ***Source:*** Maryland PSC 2018 ***Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Report***.

[2] ***Source:*** PJM-GATS.

This analysis shows that the trash incinerators in Maryland's RPS produce the most CO2 per megawatt-hour by far compared to anything else subsidized in the RPS. **The trash incinerators subsidized by Maryland's RPS emitted more than 4 times more CO2 per megawatt-hour than the black liquor sources subsidized at the time**, which the General Assembly wisely already eliminated from the RPS because black liquor is not clean, renewable energy. Neither is trash incineration

The same report also found that "the Maryland RPS has resulted in modest greenhouse gas reductions but may be working at cross-purposes with the state's efforts to reduce nitrogen oxides (NOx) and sulfur dioxide (SO2) emissions." The report credited Maryland's RPS with only "a small role" in PJM-wide CO2 emissions reductions, finding that 2017 CO2 emissions were only 0.8% lower than they would have been absent Maryland's RPS - with the generous assumption that all retired RECs supported resources that would not have operated otherwise. Trash incineration's outsized CO2 emissions contribute to this lack of emissions reduction. The report also found that **"the SO2 and NOx emissions profiles of Maryland RPS resources, on average, are equal to or slightly higher than net Maryland and net PJM generation since 2010," due in part to "eligibility of black liquor, LFG, and MSW to meet Maryland RPS**

requirements." The legislature wisely eliminated black liquor from the RPS in 2021; it is now time to eliminate MSW (municipal solid waste, or trash incineration).

A recent study in the peer-reviewed journal PLOS Climate, "Waste incinerators undermine clean energy goals," came to similar conclusions, demonstrating that "incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity produced (1707 g CO_2e/kWh) than any other power source (range: 2.4 to 991.1 g CO_2e/kWh). They also emit more criteria air pollutants than replacement sources of energy." Figure 1 from this report demonstrates how much more greenhouse-gas-intensive trash incinerators are per unit of electricity produced, compared even to coal.

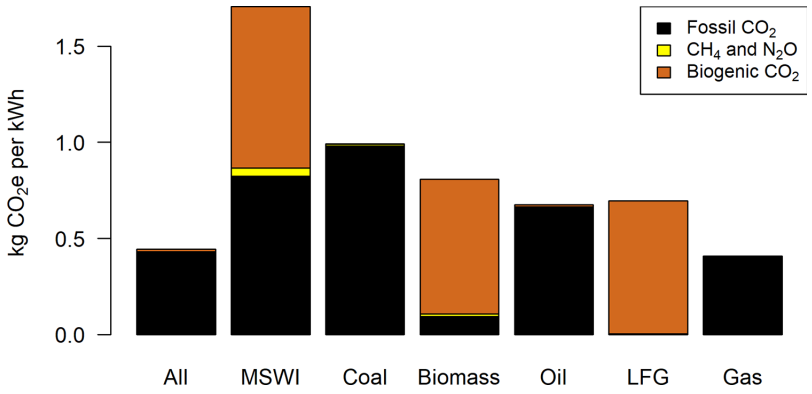


Fig 1. Generation-weighted mean national GHG emissions intensity by major fuel type for electricity. "MSWI" is municipal solid waste incineration, "LFG" is landfill gas, and "Gas" is natural gas.

EPA does not consider trash incineration to be a solution to methane emissions from landfills. Landfill methane emissions are a significant climate concern, and are being addressed through many means: federal regulations, state regulations, and increased organic waste diversion through food waste reduction and food waste and yard waste composting. The decomposition of organic matter like food waste in landfills produces methane because of landfills' anaerobic environment. In its new Wasted Food Scale published this spring, EPA made clear that while there are many solutions to divert food waste from landfills to avoid methane emissions and other impacts, trash incineration is not one of the solutions. The wasted food scale finds landfilling or incinerating food waste equally unacceptable, not one a solution to the other.

Analysis by the Department of Legislative Services and the Department of Natural Resources' Power Plant Research Program demonstrates that this bill will not have negative impacts on ratepayers. The fiscal note for this legislation explains:

> *"According to PSC's most recent RPS compliance report, municipal solid waste ("waste-to-energy") accounted for 6.9% of Tier 1 RECs used for compliance in 2022. No RECs from refuse-derived fuel facilities were used. The extent to which their removal increases RPS compliance costs depends on the prices and quantity of available replacement RECs. Most likely, the State will continue the multi-year trend of growing reliance on wind RECs to meet RPS requirements with negligible impacts on REC prices. As a result, the bill likely has a minimal impact on compliance costs and, by extension, a minimal impact on customer electricity rates. Therefore, the impact on expenditures on electricity for State and local governments and small businesses is also anticipated to be small."*

The Department of Natural Resources' Power Plant Research Program's Final Report Concerning the Maryland Renewable Portfolio Standard provides further detail about how the regional nature of REC markets means that the effect of any individual state's actions is likely to be small. In the chapter, *"Assessment of Potential Changes to the Maryland RPS," the report states:*

> *"REC availability and pricing equilibrate across all of PJM, reducing the effect of changes on any one state RPS policy." (337)*

"Eliminating land-based wind, small hydro or MSW from the Maryland RPS would have limited impact on REC availability because displaced RECs would be absorbed in other states within PJM and replaced by other eligible resources." (337)

"The removal of MSW would have an impact measuring somewhere in between black liquor and the more prevalent RPS eligible resources, including wind, solar, and small hydro. In addition to Maryland, MSW is accepted as a Tier 1 RPS eligible resource in Ohio and Michigan, as a Tier 2 RPS eligible resource in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and as part of Virginia's and Indiana's voluntary renewable energy goal. However, both Maryland and New Jersey require that the MSW resource be connected with the electric distribution system serving each state, respectively. Although the limited eligibility of MSW among states in PJM could reduce the ability to transfer MSW RECs (albeit to a lesser extent than black liquor), ***the effect of removing MSW from Maryland RPS eligibility is still likely to be small****. MSW makes up a smaller share of Maryland's REC retirements (8.9% of all RECs in 2018) and overall PJM-GATS certified renewable generation (1.2% in 2018) than black liquor. MSW also has greater potential to serve RPS requirements in other states than black liquor." (344)*

"Meeting Current and Future Targets ***After Excluding Resources****: The above characterization of the PJM market is consistent with the interim report, which indicates that Maryland can meet, or come very close to meeting, its current and future RPS requirements, both at the previously applicable 25% by 2020 level and at the 50% by 2030 level." (344)*

Additionally, the report explains that Alternative Compliance Payments provide a cap on how high REC prices will go:

"States may require LSEs to pay an ACP for each REC that it is short of its RPS requirement during a given compliance period. Funds generated from the ACP can be used for a variety of purposes, such as providing grants and loans for the development of renewable energy resources. ***The ACP operates as a de facto ceiling for REC prices****. That is, LSEs are willing to purchase or create RECs up to the point that REC costs exceed the ACP." (58)*

Conclusion

Trash is not a renewable resource, as it consists of organic waste that could be composted, plastic waste made from fossil fuels, and other materials made of finite resources. Energy created from trash is not renewable energy, and subsidizing energy production from trash incineration withholds subsidies from the truly renewable, emissions-free energy that we need.

Please pass the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act and invest more of Maryland's money in the truly renewable energy that we actually need to fight climate change, drive down emissions long-term, and create a healthier environment.

Thank you,

Jennifer Kunze
Maryland Organizing Director
Clean Water Action
jkunze@cleanwater.org

HB0166 - Maryland's Energy Subsidies are Going Up

Uploaded by: Jennifer Kunze

Position: FAV

I. Summary

The Maryland General Assembly should pass the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024,[i] which would eliminate trash incineration from Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS). This bill will help the state meet its climate goals by supporting healthier energy choices with no cost to the state.

Including trash incineration in the RPS is very costly for Marylanders. Between 2012 and 2022, Maryland energy providers spent about $100,000,000 subsidizing trash incinerators through Maryland's RPS. Unless the legislature acts now, these costs will get much worse. Our analysis projects that between 2023 and 2030, Maryland energy providers will waste an additional $200,000,000 subsidizing trash incineration if trash incineration remains in Maryland's RPS. These costs are passed on to consumers, likely at marked-up rates.

In addition, burning trash to produce electricity also produces high levels of greenhouse gases, toxic air pollutants, and toxic ash, which disproportionally harm overburdened communities and undermines Maryland's climate goals. If the legislature acts now, these investments can be spent supporting real renewable energy that will help to clean the grid and clean our air instead.

Maryland must fix this costly problem during this legislative session before it continues to escalate by removing trash incineration from the RPS. Marylanders want clean air and effective climate solutions. That is why the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act is supported by Maryland's new Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, the Maryland Climate Commission's 2023 Annual Report, local governments, and more than 80 environmental justice, labor, religious, climate and community organizations across Maryland.

II. Background

Maryland has ambitious climate goals. Under the Climate Solutions Now Act, passed in 2022, the state set a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 60 percent before 2031.[ii]

Maryland's RPS program is a vital part of enacting Maryland's climate plan. Maryland established the RPS program in 2004 to require electricity providers to subsidize increasing amounts of renewable energy and allow state residents to benefit from the lower costs of obtaining electricity from renewable sources.[iii]

Under Maryland's RPS, electricity suppliers must buy renewable energy credits (RECs) from qualifying energy sources to meet their required electricity sales. (See "What is a REC? It's Complicated!" below).[iv] Qualifying renewable energy sources under the RPS include energy sources such as wind, solar, geothermal, small-scale hydro, waste-to-energy, or trash incineration, and biomass.

Three waste-to-energy incinerators participate in Maryland's RPS program: the BRESCO trash incinerator in Baltimore, owned by WIN Waste; the Montgomery County Resources Recovery Facility; and the Covanta Fairfax Facility in Virginia. These facilities all burn municipal waste to produce electricity and harmful byproducts like ash and air pollution. Municipal waste includes everyday household items, such as product packaging, clothing, batteries, and food scraps.

What is a REC? It's Complicated!

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, a renewable energy certificate, or REC is a market-based instrument that represents the property rights to the environmental, social, and other non-power attributes of renewable electricity generation. RECs are issued when one megawatt-hour (MWh) of electricity is generated and delivered to the electricity grid from a renewable energy resource.

Once electrons flow into the grid, they are indistinguishable from one another, making it impossible to know whether they were generated by solar, coal, or gas-fired power plants, trash incineration, or some other source. Issuing RECs helps address this tracking and accounting problem. PJM, the operator of the large electricity grid of which Maryland is a small part (about 8 percent), issues an electronic time, date, and power generating station ID Stamp for each unit (megawatt hour or MWh) of electricity generated within its purview. For sources designated as "renewable," this time, date and power station ID become a "Renewable Energy Credit" or certificate (REC). The definition of renewable energy varies by state.

In Maryland, electricity providers meet their renewable energy requirements through the purchase of "unbundled" RECs. A "bundled" REC is one sold with the electricity itself. That means the buyer of the REC— usually an electricity provider — gets both the electricity and the REC as a unit. If the electricity and RECs are "unbundled," the facility owner sells the electricity to one electricity provider and the RECs to another buyer. This legal scheme allows Maryland electricity providers to buy electricity produced from fossil fuels and RECs generated from trash incinerators to comply with the state's RPS requirements.

The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act would prevent trash incinerators from being eligible for Maryland's RPS. This means these three incinerators would stop receiving subsidies provided by the sale of RECs used for Maryland's RPS. It would not require these facilities to shut down. Rather, Maryland electricity suppliers would no longer be allowed to use RECs bought from trash incinerators to satisfy their renewable energy requirements under Maryland's RPS. Under current Maryland law, electricity providers can buy trash incinerator RECs and pass the costs of buying these RECs on to the consumers. As a result, Maryland ratepayers are currently subsidizing these incinerators because ratepayers end up paying for the incinerators' RECs through their utility bills.

III. Trash Incineration Harms Public Health and the Environment

Tens of millions of dollars each year in subsidies are sent to trash incinerator companies that emit greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution in communities near the incinerator, many of whom are already overburdened with high pollution levels. This contradicts the foundational premise of the RPS and backtracks on key commitments established by the Maryland General Assembly in the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 regarding emissions reductions.

EPA's 2020 Emissions Inventory reports annual emissions of over 2.5 million tons of CO2 released by the three incinerators.

EPA's Emissions Inventory indicates that in 2020, the three incinerators profiting from Maryland's RPS emitted 2.5 million tons of CO2 into the atmosphere – while the wind, solar, and geothermal power that could have been supported by those dollars instead would have emitted zero.

Table 1. CO2 Emissions Per Year by Incinerator

Facility	CO2 Emissions/Year
WIN Waste Baltimore ("BRESCO")	690,033 tons
Montgomery Co. Resource Recovery	579,804 tons
Covanta Fairfax	1,271,801 tons

A 2023 peer-reviewed study in PLOS Climate found that "incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity produced than *any* other power source" and that incineration emits 1.7 times as much greenhouse gasses and 4.8 as much nitrogen oxides as coal per megawatt-hour.[v]

Emissions from trash incinerators are so high that they decrease the effectiveness of the entire Renewable Portfolio Standard program. In its *Final Report Concerning the Maryland Renewable Portfolio Standard*, the Maryland Power Plant Research Program analyzed the

emissions profile of the RPS and found that "the Maryland RPS has resulted in modest greenhouse gas reductions but may be working at cross-purposes with the state's efforts to reduce nitrogen oxides (NOx) and sulfur dioxide (SO2) emissions," in part because of the emissions from trash incineration.[vi]

The report also analyzed the CO2 emissions per megawatt-hour of energy sources included in the RPS. This analysis showed that the trash incinerators in Maryland's RPS produce the most CO2 per megawatt-hour, orders of magnitude more than anything else included in the RPS. In particular, the trash incinerators included in Maryland's RPS emitted more than four times more CO2 per megawatt-hour than black liquor, which the General Assembly wisely eliminated from the RPS in 2021. In contrast, wind, solar, hydropower, and geothermal, of course, emit no CO2.

If trash incineration remains in the RPS, between 2023 and 2030, Maryland energy providers will waste an additional $200,000,000 to buy REC's from trash incinerators.

Lastly, including trash incineration in Maryland's RPS program decreases the incentive to adopt more sustainable waste practices. The current RPS artificially cheapens the worst methods of dealing with our waste by handing extra profits to the companies that own trash incinerators. Waste alternatives like composting and recycling are competitors to trash incineration; those industries can create hundreds of high-quality green jobs that don't pollute.[vii] Maryland's RPS is creating a financial environment where the worst method of dealing with our waste, trash incineration, is artificially made more competitive against newer, safer alternatives like composting and recycling, which have significantly less environmental and community impact.

IV. Removing Incineration Will Provide Real Benefits to Maryland Consumers

Removing incineration from the RPS will help spur better and more effective climate solutions.

A. Subsidizing Trash Incinerators is Very Costly

Subsidizing trash incineration under Maryland's RPS is a costly business. In fact, trash incineration is more costly to subside than wind of small hydropower facilities.

In 2022, the average price for a REC in 2022 from trash incineration was $22.96, while the price of a REC from onshore wind was $19.54 and from hydroelectric was $18.75.[viii] The price of RECs from trash incinerators nearly tripled between 2020 and 2022, the last year these prices are publicly available, and have risen over seven-fold in the previous ten years.

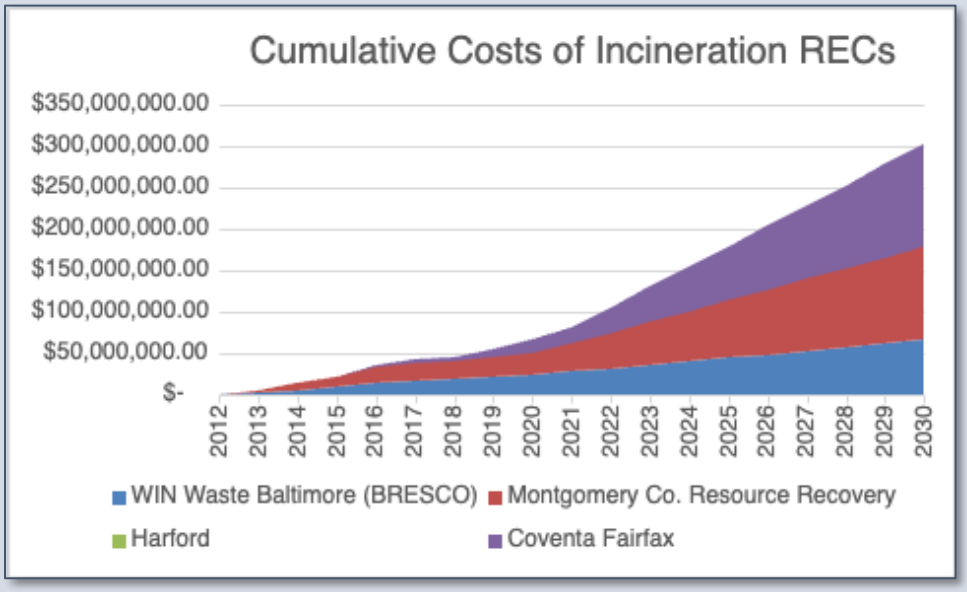
The Public Service Commission's latest report on the RPS says that in 2022, Maryland energy companies spent millions buying RECs from three incinerators to satisfy Maryland's RPS:

- $8,776,070 for 382,233 RECs from the Montgomery County incinerator
- $4,203,999 for 183,101 RECs from Wheelabrator in Baltimore
- $11,733,532 from 511,045 RECs from Covanta Fairfax

These wasteful subsidies will continue to add up unless the Maryland General Assembly acts now to pass the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

Between 2012 and 2030, we estimate that Maryland ratepayers will spend about 300 million dollars subsidizing dirty trash incinerators under the state's RPS.[ix] *(See Appendix A)*

Graph 1: Costs of Subsidizing Incinerators (Past, Current and Projections into the Future)



	Cumulative Costs
Montgomery County Incinerator	$112,811,439.87
WIN Waste Baltimore (BRESCO)	$66,542,246.60
Harford Plant	$28,611.94
Covanta Fairfax Incinerator	$124,473,487.85
Total	$303,855,786.26

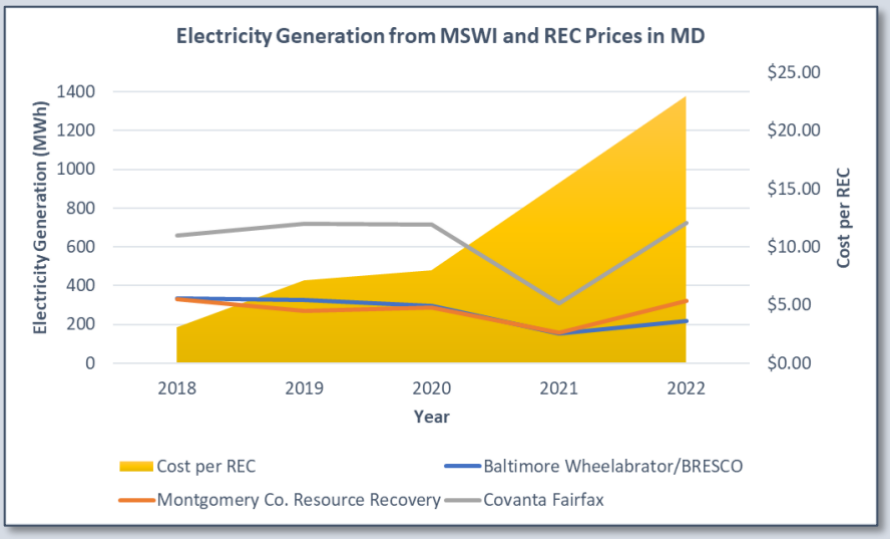
The good news is that by acting now, the General Assembly can avoid most of that waste. Maryland energy providers spent $106,146,492 buying RECs from trash incinerators between 2012 and 2022. Our analysis shows that if trash incineration remains in the RPS, between 2023 and 2030, that amount will more than double: Maryland energy providers will spend at least an additional $200,000,000 to buy RECs from trash incinerators unless the General Assembly acts now to eliminate trash incineration from the Renewable Portfolio Standard.

These figures are likely to underestimate the costs to Maryland consumers. This is because the prices of the RECs reported by the PSC reflect the costs of the RECs to the electricity supplier, not the costs passed on to the consumer.[x]

B. These Subsidies Could be Better Spent

Increasing investments in waste-to-energy has not and will not lead to increasing returns of energy. Despite the ballooning value of the subsidies, there has been little to no additional generation of energy, and in some cases, production has decreased dramatically. From 2018-2022, the price per REC for RECs from incinerators rose over sevenfold, increasing from $3.12/REC in 2018 to $22.96/REC in 2022. Concurrently, electricity generation from Baltimore's incinerator decreased by 35% from an annual output of 335 MWh to 219 MWh. [xii]

Graph 2: Cumulative Costs of Trash Incinerator (MSWI) RECs in Maryland Renewable Portfolio Standard



	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
WIN Waste Baltimore (BRESCO) (MWh)	335.277	324.221	297.347	151.773	218.645
Montgomery Co. Resource Recovery (MWh)	331.086	271.601	288.310	157.780	322.651
Covanta Fairfax (MWh)	658.618	718.267	716.327	309.763	724.286
Cost of REC MSWI	$3.12	$7.14	$7.99	$15.46	$22.96

If the General Assembly acts now to eliminate trash incineration from the RPS, these hundreds of millions of dollars can instead be used to support clean energy projects that create increasing amounts of clean energy with greater benefits to Maryland consumers and help fight climate change.

v. Support is Overwhelming, and the General Assembly Must Act Now

There is more good news. Removing trash is widely supported by Maryland political leaders, community groups and environmental and public health organizations.

At the end of 2023, Maryland's Department of the Environment published the Governor's climate plan known as the Climate Pollution Reduction Plan (CPRP) which explicitly recommends removing trash incineration from the RPS.[xi] This is in addition to Maryland's Commission on Climate Change recommending the same in its 2023 Report.[xii]

> Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan "calls for the definitions of qualifying resources in the RPS program to align with definitions of clean power resources under the forthcoming Clean Power Standard, including the elimination of eligibility for municipal solid waste incineration." (pg. 21)
>
> Maryland's Commission on Climate Change states, "Due to the energy source's contributions to the state's GHG emissions, the General Assembly should adopt legislation to remove municipal solid waste incineration as an eligible generating source from the RPS." (pg. 15)

In the past few months, several community organizations have worked together to host community meetings and a rally, which have educated and empowered hundreds of impacted residents to take action through advocacy by testifying to their lived experiences and engaging their elected leaders, calling for the passage of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act. Over 80 climate, environmental, environmental justice, community and business organizations have signed a letter supporting the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

With broad public support and support from a bipartisan group of governmental and environmental justice leaders across Maryland, now is the time for the General Assembly to act and prevent even more money being wasted subsidizing trash incinerators.

Appendix A.

FOOTNOTES

[i] House Bill 166, Senate Bill 146
[ii] See, https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/ClimateChange/Pages/index.aspx#:~:text=Maryland%20has%20set%20the,net%20zero%20emissions%20by%202045.

[iii] https://www.psc.state.md.us/electricity/renewable-energy/#:~:text=Maryland's%20Renewable%20Portfolio%20Standard%20(RPS,electricity%20generated%20from%20renewable%20sources.
[iv] If electricity suppliers fail to acquire sufficient RECs to satisfy the RPS requirement, they are required to make an Alternative Compliance Payment (ACP) to the state, which uses the money to support the creation of new renewable energy sources in the State.

[v] https://journals.plos.org/climate/article?id=10.1371/journal.pclm.0000100
[vi] https://dnr.maryland.gov/pprp/Documents/FinalRPSReportDecember2019.pdf
[vii] https://ilsr.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Why-Should-Baltimore-Recycling-More-Report-final.pdf
[viii] https://www.psc.state.md.us/wp-content/uploads/CY22-RPS-Annual-Report_Final-w-Corrected-Appdx-A.pdf Page 43. This is the latest publicly available information on REC prices by fuel source.
[ix] In 2012, waste-to-energy was moved from a Tier 2 energy source to a Tier 1 energy source. See Appendix A for costs and prices from 2008-2022 and Maryland's Annual RPS report for a distinction between the Tier 1 and Tier 2 energy sources. The prices for RECs are much higher for Tier 1 sources than Tier 2 sources.
[x] This is because the electricity providers are required to report the cost of "retired" RECs, which RECs used to comply with the RPS, not any costs passed on to the consumer. These costs are not disclosed in consumers' electricity bills.
[xi] https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/ClimateChange/Maryland%20Climate%20Reduction%20Plan/Maryland%27s%20Climate%20Pollution%20Reduction%20Plan%20-%20Final%20-%20Dec%2028%202023.pdf
[xii] https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/ClimateChange/MCCC/Documents/MCCC%20Annual%20Report%202023/MCCC%20Annual%20Report%202023.pdf

Testimony SB146-HB166 RREA24.pdf
Uploaded by: Jibran Eubanks
Position: FAV

Testimony on SB146/HB166
Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024
Position: Favorable

To Chair Senator Brian Feldman and the members of the committee;

My name is Ricarra Jones, and I am the Political Director of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers-East. We are the largest healthcare workers union in the country, representing over 10,000 members in Maryland/DC. Our union supports the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act 2024, and we urge a favorable report. Passing this bill is critical to achieving our state's goals of reaching 100% clean energy and will improve community health.

The Baltimore BRESCO trash incinerator turns garbage from Baltimore City and local counties into air pollution, toxic ash, and emissions that have a negative impact on local residents' health and accelerate climate change. The communities abutting the incinerator, including Westport, Cherry Hill, and Brooklyn, are primarily Black and Brown. Residents go to the hospital more frequently than individuals who live elsewhere in Maryland and are five times more likely to have asthma. This is environmental injustice and racism in action. Our state sends tens of millions of dollars each year in subsidies to trash incinerators that emit greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution in overburdened communities. In 2022, BRESCO received $5.7 million in RPS subsidies and emitted 653,000 tons of carbon dioxide.

The solution to this problem is ending subsidies for trash incineration and implementing cleaner, cheaper alternatives that create green jobs and limit pollution. Studies conducted in Baltimore show that investing in waste management strategies such as composting and recycling can save money and create good quality employment opportunities. For every non-unionized job created at a trash incinerator, nine union jobs could be created at a recycling facility, and four at a composting facility. Replacing the Baltimore incinerator with a composting facility could replace existing jobs with higher paying green jobs. According to a report from Global Anti-Incineration Alliance, implementing zero waste policies can create 200 times more jobs than landfills and incinerators.

The majority of 1199SEIU members are People of Color. As we can see, this is not just an environmental issue, but a social one as well. For too long, these communities have been taken advantage of, and their health has been the cost. Maryland also faces a dangerous staffing crisis across the healthcare industry. Passing this bill can help reduce the burden on healthcare workers, particularly in our hospitals, by alleviating the number of patients that flood healthcare facilities due to preventable illnesses caused by toxins in our environment from dirty energy sources. Toxins from trash incineration, biogas from factory farms, and woody biomass are linked to healthcare ailments such as asthma, cancer, reproductive disorders, and other negative health impacts.

For the sake of our people and our planet, we encourage a favorable report on the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act 2024. Thank you.

In Unity,

Ricarra Jones
Political Director
1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers-East

HB166 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.pdf
Uploaded by: John Ford
Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coaltion (BTEC). I am a resident of **District 46**. **I am 32 years old, and I will be living with the choices we make today for hopefully another half century. I'm also a resident of Baltimore City, and care deeply about the environment of the surrounding communities. I am testifying in support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024, HB166.**

Maryland needs to take action on climate change, and needs to find ways to do so this year that do not cost any money out of the state budget. As Senate President Ferguson recently said "this is a year about prioritizing the resources that we have." Over three years, the total subsidies to trash incinerators (including out-of-state companies) through Maryland's RPS ballooned from $11.5 million in 2020 to $24.7 million in 2022, while a new 2023 study in PLOS Climate found that "incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity produced than any other power source" - including coal plants. That makes this subsidy doubly bad policy for Marylanders and our goals and a perfect target for cuts. This bill does just that by excluding incineration of waste and refuse-derived fuel from the "tier1 renewable source" category of the state's renewable energy portfolio.

The state isn't the only stakeholder being being forced to pay subsidies to polluting fuel sources under the guise of renewable energy: so are state taxpayers. The RPS subsidy is paid by electric utilities, and ultimately comes out of our utility bills. We deserve to know that when we're paying for renewable energy, we're actually helping support the renewable energy we need to fight climate change and clean our air.

Finally, the subject matter experts in the state's own Department of the Environment and Commission on Climate Change both recently published reports supporting this action.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024, HB166.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
John Ford
529 S East Ave, Baltimore, MD 21224
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

Josie Pines Written Testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Josie Pines
Position: FAV

PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND
P.O. Box 6988 Largo, MD 20792
www.ProgressiveMaryland.org
Contact@ProgressiveMaryland.org
Facebook.com/ProgressiveMaryland
@Progressive_MD

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: Josie Pines
DATE: March 1, 2024
POSITION: Favorable

Dear Chair Wilson and Members of the Committee,

As a resident of Anne Arundel County, a *representative of Progressive Maryland, and a resident concerned about climate change as an existential threat*, I am writing to express my strong support of HB166, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

I am writing to urge your support for the passage of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (RREA) to address the pressing issue of air pollution and environmental justice in our community and across Maryland.

For nearly four decades, the BRESCO incinerator company has emitted harmful toxins, contributing to poor air quality and adverse health effects, particularly around overburdened communities in South Baltimore. This incinerator not only harms our health but also imposes a financial burden on Maryland utility ratepayers, costing us over $11 million in subsidies since 2019.

As a Marylander and former resident of South Baltimore, I am deeply concerned about the health and well-being of our community. We cannot continue to tolerate the harmful impacts of the BRESCO incinerator on our air quality and public health. It is imperative that you take decisive action to shut down the incinerator and transition to cleaner, more sustainable energy sources outlined in the RREA.

I urge you to champion the passage of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act to protect the health of our communities, mitigate climate change, and pave the way for a cleaner, more sustainable future for Maryland.

Sincerely,

Josie Pines

Josie Pines

KN RREA Statement Template.PDF
Uploaded by: Kamal Nkele
Position: FAV

PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND
P.O. Box 6988 Largo, MD 20792
www.ProgressiveMaryland.org
Contact@ProgressiveMaryland.org
Facebook.com/ProgressiveMaryland
@Progressive_MD

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: Kamal Nkele. Gaithersburg, MD
DATE: March 5, 2024
POSITION: Favorable

My name is Kamal a citizen Montgomery County Maryland and I am honored to be asked to speak here today. I moved to MD about 14 years ago and I have always been astounded by the quality if people I have met here. The people of MD are kind, caring, diverse and most of all intelligent. Additionally, I was quite surprised to see how many of the local and state politicians in MD are willing to fight for their constituents and try to do the right thing for our diverse communities. So when I learned that my hard earned tax dollars were going to subsidize dirty, cancer causing energy production in the state as renewable energy, I was very disappointed. What is even more disappointing is how few people in our communities know it is happening; How few of us know our tax dollars are paying to poison our neighbors, and in some cases, our own kids.

With that being said, I was very excited about the Moore administration coming into power. I was pumped about the fact that they told us that they supported a science backed clean energy mix for the state. One that calls for 50% renewable energy production (though I think we should be pushing for 100%) and one that “leaves no on behind” in our state. So imagine how surprised and disappointed I was last year when senate president Bill Ferguson did not bring up the RECLAIM RENEWABLE ENERGY ACT for a vote. We could have solved this problem last year. Based on what I have heard since it must have been a mistake or maybe our representatives just don’t know how wrong this is. So as a MD citizen, business owner and local ratepayer; who’s travels have given me a little bit of experience in renewable energy generation as well as climate change risks, let me say this. TRASH INCINERATION IS NOT RENEWABLE ENERGY.

I believe it is crucial for our representatives to recognize the significant misalignment in categorizing waste generation as a renewable energy source. Waste generation is not backed as a renewable energy source under any scientific standard including the Science-Based Targets Initiative as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals framework. As I said As I was very excited to hear Governor Wes and the Democratic party champion its belief in a SCIENTIFICALLY BACKED renewable energy mix and this bill represents the next and most important step so far in that journey.

Maryland has the potential to be a national and global leader in clean, scientifically backed renewable energy. We all know transitioning to cleaner energy is not just an environmental imperative but also a significant economic opportunity, and a way to ensure that our economy is resilient and ready to

capitalize on the great changes that are coming our way due to climate change. By continuing to support waste generation, we risk falling behind in the global race towards truly sustainable energy solutions. However, by taking these subsidies and investing in solar, wind, and other renewable technologies like vertical farming, we can create a sustainable closed loop energy infrastructure that's resilient, cost-effective, and beneficial for all Marylanders.

So I write this statement to say please bring the Reclaim renewable energy act up for a vote and vote YES. It is the best move for all of MD, and for our futures. Thanks.

HB_166_ClimateCoalitionMoCo_FAV_Mar7.pdf
Uploaded by: Karl Held
Position: FAV

CLIMATE COALITION
Montgomery County, MD

Testimony for HB166: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)

Committee: Economic Matters
Testimony by: Climate Coalition Montgomery County
Position: Favorable
Date: March 7, 2024

Dear Chair Wilson and Members of the Committee,

The Climate Coalition Montgomery County (CC-MoCo) strongly supports HB166 - The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024.

The undersigned organizational members of the Climate Coalition of Montgomery County urge you to pass the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (HB166). We are advocates of actions aimed at meeting the goals of Montgomery County's Climate Emergency Resolution, adopted in 2017, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2027 and 100% by 2035. Maryland is facing a climate crisis and we strongly support SB146 as a budget-neutral bill with real results for climate and clean renewable energy, so we urge you to vote favorably on HB166.

The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act would remove trash incineration from being included with clean energy sources like solar and wind in the state's renewable energy portfolio standard. We support this change because:

- **Subsidizing trash incineration with Maryland ratepayer money harms Maryland electricity ratepayers.** Renewable energy subsidies should support clean renewable energy sources that help us decarbonize and meet our climate pollution reduction targets. This bill presents an opportunity to improve our climate outcomes without spending new state money - it only calls for reprioritizing how our clean energy subsidies are spent. Marylanders deserve to know that when we're paying for renewable energy, we're actually helping support decarbonized sources of renewable energy that we need to fight climate change and clean our air.
- **Removing trash incineration eligibility from Maryland's renewable portfolio standard (RPS) aligns with our state climate goals and plans.** Maryland's **Climate Pollution Reduction Plan**, published in December 2023 after receiving input from

thousands of Marylanders, and the Maryland Commission on Climate Change's 2023 Annual Report both recommend removing trash incineration from the state's RPS.

- **Trash incinerators do not need these subsidies.** Maryland's incineration renewable energy credits go to facilities that existed before the renewable portfolio standard was created. Statewide ratepayer support should be used for real new, clean, renewable energy that will fight climate change, decarbonize our grid, and help clean our air.
- **Subsidies for trash incineration have led to millions of dollars in Maryland ratepayer money flowing out of Marylander's pockets to a Covanta trash incinerator in Virginia.** The BRESCO incinerator in Baltimore received $4.2 million; the Montgomery County incinerator in Dickerson received $8.7 million, and the windfall received by the Covanta incinerator in Lorton, VA dwarfs those amounts at $11.7 million. This money is better spent to help us meet our clean energy goals in state.

Now is the time to act on Maryland's commitment to zero-emissions energy sources by shifting Maryland's ratepayer renewable energy subsidies to facilities that are emissions-free. The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024 accomplishes this by removing climate-polluting waste incineration from Maryland's RPS. We respectfully request your support for HB166.

Sincerely,

Karl Held, on behalf of the Climate Coalition Montgomery County

Climate Coalition Montgomery County – Organizational Signatories
350 Montgomery County
ACQ Climate
Bethesda Green
Biodiversity for a Livable Climate
Chesapeake Climate Action Network. (CCAN)
Ecosystems Study Group
Elders Climate Action Maryland
Environmental Justice Ministry Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church
Friends of Sligo Creek (FoSC)
Green Sanctuary Committee, Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Montgomery County-Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (MCFACS)
One Montgomery Green
Poolesville Green
Safe Healthy Playing Fields Inc
Sugarloaf Citizens' Association
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee (TPMEC)
The Climate Mobilization, Montgomery County MD
Transit Alternatives to Mid-County Highway Extended/M-83 (TAME)
Zero Waste Montgomery County

ZeroWasteMoCo FAV HB166.pdf
Uploaded by: Kelly Doordan
Position: FAV

Testimony On: **HB 166 "Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations" (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)**
Committee: **Education, Energy, and the Environment**
Position: **Support**
Date: **March 7, 2024**

Honorable Chair Wilson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this statement for the record. On behalf of Zero Waste Montgomery County, we strongly SUPPORT H.B. 166 - The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024.

In a time when we must make many investments in clean energy and other programs across sectors to fight climate change, this bill provides our state with a budget-neutral opportunity to refocus existing clean energy subsidies toward renewable energy investment that is needed most - emissions-free technologies like solar and wind. The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024 accomplishes this by removing trash incineration from the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard.

Removing incineration from the Renewable Portfolio Standard has been supported by Montgomery County officials because it creates the right incentives to achieve progress toward our county climate and clean energy goals. Removing incineration credits strengthens our state's renewable energy portfolio and brings it into alignment with the recommendations in Maryland's recently released Climate Pollution Reduction Plan and the Maryland Commission on Climate Change 2023 Annual Report.

The Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) was established to support and incentivize clean, renewable energy generators. Maryland's incineration renewable energy credits go to facilities – like ours in Montgomery County – that existed before the renewable portfolio standard was created and that don't need the state subsidy. Maryland's incineration renewable energy credits even flow out of state to support a trash incinerator in Virginia. Clean energy subsidies supported by ratepayers across the state of Maryland should be used for real, clean, renewable energy that will fight climate change, make progress toward cleaning Maryland's air, and align our incentives with our policy goals. Continuing to spend Marylanders' money on climate-polluting facilities in our county or out of state that do not need subsidies to operate harms Maryland ratepayers when our goals would be better met by supporting newer, clean, emissions-free energy sources.

This legislation would:

- End Maryland renewable energy subsidies for trash incinerators -- including one that operates in Virginia.

- End Maryland renewable energy subsidies for Montgomery County's largest stationary source of CO2 emissions.
- Help us meet Maryland and Montgomery County's goals for clean, renewable, emissions-free energy.

Please pass the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act now.

20240305 HB 166 Testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Lauren Greenberger
Position: FAV

Testimony On: **HB 166 "Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations"**
(Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)
Committee: **Economic Matters**
Position: **Support**
Date: **March 5, 2024**

Honorable Chair Wilson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this statement for the record. On behalf of Sugarloaf Citizens Association, we strongly SUPPORT HB 166 - The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024.

In order to achieve our greenhouse gas emission goals here in Montgomery County and throughout the state of Maryland we must put all our subsidy dollars toward truly clean energy. These must be industries that produce no greenhouse gases. According to the EPA, the Montgomery County RRF puts approximately 600,000 tons of greenhouse gas (CO_2e) in the air annually. This is more than double what Covanta reports in their PR materials because they discount all the GHG's that come from anything organic (food scraps, paper, wood, leather etc). They claim it will regrow so somehow those GHG's don't matter. This makes no sense to us and luckily we have the data from the EPA to show an accurate reading of the climate damaging effects of incineration. By keeping trash incineration in the RPS we are subsidizing this GHG emitter and, more importantly, taking away from the expansion of wind and solar production – industries we desperately need to combat global warming.

While George Bush was still governor of Texas, he signed a Renewable Portfolio Standard bill into law. The Texas RPS law caused the dirty utilities to have to invest in truly renewable energy. They turned to wind power, making Texas second to California in wind generation and causing more wind power to be installed in Texas (912 MW) than in the rest of the U.S. combined (775 MW) in 2001 (!) This is the power of a CLEAN RPS.

We are already faced with budget demands for millions of dollars in programs to mitigate the effects of climate change - rising sea levels, flooding in streets, cities and farm fields and a massive influx of asylum seekers desperate to escape drought and

famine in their own countries. We absolutely must do everything we can here in Maryland to halt these devastating climactic changes.

Thank you for your attention.

Lauren Greenberger

On behalf of the Board of Directors

Sugarloaf Citizens Association

Linden Farm
20900 Martinsburg Road, P.O. Box 218, Dickerson, MD 20842

HB166_Reclaim Renewable Act_ECM_CJW FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Laurie McGilvray
Position: FAV

Committee: **Economic Matters**
Testimony on: **HB166 - Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024**
Organization: **Climate Justice Wing of the Maryland Legislative Coalition**
Submitting: **Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair**
Position: **Favorable**
Hearing Date: **March 7, 2024**

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of HB166. The Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of nearly 30 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on HB166.

The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024 (HB166) will clean up the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) by retaining subsidies for truly renewable energy sources and removing subsidies for a problematic dirty energy source, i.e., trash incineration. As Maryland moves aggressively toward meeting its ambitious greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals, we need to align all available incentives toward clean sources of energy and stop incentivizing polluting sources like trash incineration.

Trash incineration was only added to Tier 1 of the RPS in 2011, making it part of the same subsidized category as wind and solar. Maryland needs to stop wasting money subsidizing trash incineration. We need to put our money where our mouth is by focusing ratepayer money for "renewable energy" on truly renewable sources that will help us meet our GHG reduction goals. The Maryland Commission on Climate Change and Governor Moore agree. In the Governor's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, released at the end of December, and in the Commission's 2023 Annual Report there are recommendations to remove trash incineration from the RPS.

In addition, this is the year to do it! Maryland must find the $1 billion needed each year to achieve its climate goals, as called for in Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan. The total subsidies to trash incinerators from Maryland's RPS in 2022 were $24.7 million. The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act will redistribute this subsidy, which ratepayers already waste on trash incinerators (including out-of-state facilities) to truly renewable energy sources like solar and wind facilities in Maryland.

Finally, it is important to acknowledge that trash incineration is not "clean energy" and does not belong in the RPS. In 2015, the Baltimore incinerator emitted on average about twice as much GHG emissions per unit energy produced as each of the coal plants located in Maryland. In

addition, air pollution from trash incinerators increase the risk of pre-term births, cancers of the blood and lung, and emergency room visits. According to a Chesapeake Bay Foundation commissioned study, fine particulate matter emitted from the Baltimore “waste-to-energy” facility causes over $55 million in adverse health effects annually. The Climate Justice Wing supports policies that benefit overburdened and underserved communities, which have historically sustained disproportionate environmental harm. The South Baltimore communities closest to the incinerator are truly overburdened by multiple pollution sources, including the incinerator. This polluting source of energy should not be receiving a renewable energy subsidy intended to promote the generation of clean and healthy renewable energy.

By removing trash incineration from the RPS, Maryland will better direct its subsidies to the truly clean, renewable energy sources of the future. We strongly support HB166 and urge a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.

350MoCo
Adat Shalom Climate Action
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry
Chesapeake Earth Holders
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
Climate Parents of Prince George's
Climate Reality Project
ClimateXChange – Rebuild Maryland Coalition
Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County
Echotopia
Elders Climate Action
Fix Maryland Rail
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
Greenbelt Climate Action Network
HoCoClimateAction
IndivisibleHoCoMD
Maryland Legislative Coalition
Mobilize Frederick
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Mountain Maryland Movement
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
Progressive Maryland
Safe & Healthy Playing Fields
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
WISE

hb166-altering renewable energy standards- EM 3-7-

Uploaded by: Lee Hudson

Position: FAV

Delaware-Maryland Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Testimony prepared for the
Economic Matters Committee
on
House Bill 166
March 7, 2024
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to speak about wise stewardship of the gift of creation. I am Lee Hudson, assistant to the bishop for public policy in the Delaware-Maryland Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are a faith community with three judicatories located in every part of our State.

The ELCA identified greenhouse gases as environmental pollutants because of their deleterious effects on climate in 1993 ("Caring for Creation," ELCA). We have supported a swift transition to an energy production regime sourced from renewables, in Maryland and in other states.

While biomasses are regular byproducts of several agricultural and natural resource industries, and thus renewable in some measure, they still generate greenhouse gas when burned. Burning them, while "renewable" in that expanded definition, still frustrates the effort to reduce carbon emissions.

Abundantly recurring material such as packaging wastes rescued from trash and burned to produce "energy" eludes any current definition of "renewable" excepting that they are and will remain plentiful. Burning trash was never going to produce "clean energy".

After some twenty years it's time to clean up Maryland's renewable energy portfolio. We therefore support **House Bill 166** and implore your favorable report.

Lee Hudson

5699 Meridale Rd. Baltimore, MD 21228 410-230-2860 800-869-5492 fax 410-230-2871

HB166 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.docx.pdf
Uploaded by: Lindsay Keipper
Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coaltion (BTEC). I am a resident of **District 46 and I am testifying in support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024, HB166.**

SURJ BALTIMORE

Showing Up for Racial Justice

Maryland needs to take action on climate change, and needs to find ways to do so this year that do not cost any money out of the state budget. As Senate President Ferguson recently said “this is a year about prioritizing the resources that we have.” Over three years, the total subsidies to trash incinerators (including out-of-state companies) through Maryland’s RPS ballooned from $11.5 million in 2020 to $24.7 million in 2022, while a new 2023 study in PLOS Climate found that “incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity produced than any other power source” - including coal plants. That makes this subsidy doubly bad policy for Marylanders and our goals and a perfect target for cuts. This bill does just that by excluding incineration of waste and refuse-derived fuel from the “tier1 renewable source” category of the state’s renewable energy portfolio.

The state isn’t the only stakeholder being being forced to pay subsidies to polluting fuel sources under the guise of renewable energy: so are state taxpayers. The RPS subsidy is paid by electric utilities, and ultimately comes out of our utility bills. We deserve to know that when we’re paying for renewable energy, we’re actually helping support the renewable energy we need to fight climate change and clean our air.

Finally, the subject matter experts in the state’s own Department of the Environment and Commission on Climate Change both recently published reports supporting this action.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024, HB166.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Lindsay Keipper
2425 Fleet St.
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

HB0166_Reclaim_Renewable_Act_ECM_HoCoCA.org_FAV.pd
Uploaded by: Liz Feighner
Position: FAV

HoCoClimateAction.org
Howard County, Maryland

Bill: HB0166: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)

Hearing Date: March 7, 2024
Bill Sponsor: Delegates Stewart, Boafo, Charkoudian, Foley, Hill, Lehman, R. Lewis, Palakovich Carr, Ruth, Solomon, Stein, and Terrasa
Committee: Economic Matters
Submitting: Liz Feighner for HoCo Climate Action
Position: **Favorable**

HoCo Climate Action is a 350.org local chapter and a grassroots organization representing approximately 1,400 subscribers. It is also a member of the Climate Justice Wing of the Maryland Legislative Coalition.

Howard County Climate Action supports HB0166, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024 and we urge you to pass HB0166 to stop wasting Maryland residents' money on trash incinerators and make more funding available for real renewable energy - at no additional cost to the state budget. We were actively involved helping the Baltimore student-led Free Your Voice stop a trash incinerator in Curtis Bay in 2013 which prevented more wasted RPS funds on another trash incinerator. This issue is very important to our organization because trash incineration is neither clean nor renewable; its inclusion in the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) is counter to the program's goals.

With utility rates that keep rising in Maryland, ratepayers would be better served if their funds currently wasted on subsidizing trash incineration were instead supporting real renewable energy, such as wind, solar and geothermal.

The purpose of the RPS is to support clean, renewable energy, which Maryland needs now more than ever. When establishing the RPS in 2004, the legislature wrote that the benefits of renewable energy include "long-term decreased emissions" and "a healthier environment." Trash incineration was only added to Tier 1 of the RPS in 2011, making it part of the same subsidized category as wind and solar. Rate payers should not be providing a *windfall* for trash incinerators by subsidizing them and should be providing funds for true clean energy like *wind, solar and geothermal.*

Maryland is wasting an increasing amount of RPS money on trash incineration, much of it out of state. Over three years, due to the market-based nature of the subsidy (the amount of electricity produced by incinerators has not increased), the total subsidies to trash incinerators

through Maryland's RPS ballooned from $11.5 million in 2020 to $24.7 million in 2022. In 2022, the BRESCO incinerator in Baltimore received $4.2 million; the Montgomery County incinerator in Dickerson received $8.7 million, and the Covanta incinerator in Lorton, VA, received a windfall of $11.7 million - twice as much as Montgomery County's incinerator and three times as much as the incinerator in Baltimore. If these trends continue and trash incineration remains in the RPS, Maryland ratepayers will be increasingly harmed: we will be wasting ever-increasing amounts of money, much of it out of state, that isn't putting renewable power on the grid.

Trash incineration is not clean, renewable energy and is contradictory to the goals of the RPS and Maryland's Climate Plans. Trash incineration is among the dirtiest methods of producing electricity. A new 2023 study in PLOS Climate found that "incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity produced than *any* other power source" - even coal plants. EPA's Emissions Inventory indicates that in 2020, the three trash incinerators profiting from Maryland's RPS emitted 2.5 million tons of CO2 into the atmosphere. Maryland Department of the Environment's **Climate Pollution Reduction Plan** recommends aligning the RPS with the forthcoming Clean Power Standard which clearly states the standard will not include trash incineration. **Maryland Commission on Climate Change's 2023 Annual Report** recommends removing municipal solid waste incineration as an eligible generating source from the RPS.

We strongly believe this bill should be limited to removal of RPS subsidies for trash incineration. Maryland is developing a Clean Energy Standard this year, so we oppose adding any new energy sources to RPS subsidies. Any suggestions to add to the RPS that may come from energy developers should be rejected.

We urge a **favorable** report for HB0166.

Howard County Climate Action
Submitted by Liz Feighner, Steering and Advocacy Committee
www.HoCoClimateAction.org
HoCoClimateAction@gmail.com

HB166_MDSierraClub_fav 7March2024.pdf
Uploaded by: Mariah Shriner
Position: FAV

P.O. Box 278
Riverdale, MD 20738

Committee: **Economic Matters**
Testimony on: **HB166 "Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)"**
Position: **Support**
Hearing Date: **March 7, 2024**

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club supports HB 166. This bill will remove incineration of municipal solid waste (trash) from Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS).

Electricity generation from trash incineration is a significant source of air pollution, water pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions. The Renewable Portfolio Standard was created to incentivize clean renewable energy and help Maryland transition away from polluting technologies. Trash incineration is neither clean nor renewable, and incentivizing this polluting technology is inconsistent with state goals and a waste of ratepayer dollars.

Trash incineration is not clean or renewable – it emits climate-disrupting carbon dioxide and other pollutants that cause serious damage to Marylanders' health. Incineration facilities typically emit more carbon dioxide, dioxin, mercury, nitrogen oxide, and lead than fossil fuel plants. Their residual ash contains high concentrations of harmful toxins including dioxin, mercury, lead, and other heavy metals; these high concentrations can rapidly leach into local soil and water.

The trash incinerator in downtown Baltimore is the largest source of air pollution in the city, producing about a third of all industrial air pollution in Baltimore. It emits a substantial amount of mercury and lead – both known to be critical threats to children's neurological development. It also is the city's single largest source of pollutants that cause respiratory disease, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides (NOx). Sulfur dioxide causes acute respiratory irritation, triggering immediate worsening for anyone with an underlying pulmonary disorder, such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Nitrogen oxides contribute to childhood asthma and are the major source of ground-level ozone (smog) formations that trigger asthma attacks.

The RPS should be focused on incentivizing new, renewable energy facilities that support Maryland's efforts to mitigate climate change. Both trash incinerators in Maryland, which currently receive incentives through the RPS, began operations well before the RPS's first compliance year, 2006. The Covanta incinerator in Dickerson, Maryland began commercial operation in 1995, and the Wheelabrator incinerator in downtown Baltimore began operation in

the 1980s. Maryland's RPS dollars also have been supporting a Covanta incinerator in Fairfax County, Virginia, which began commercial operations in 1990. Subsidizing polluting facilities that existed before the RPS was created does not advance the goals of Maryland or serve its residents.

With the passage of the Climate Solutions Now Act, Maryland committed to an ambitious goal of reducing greenhouse gases by 60% by the year 2031. Governor Moore has committed to a goal of 100% clean renewable energy by 2035, and that goal was reinforced in the recent Maryland Climate Action Plan. Now it is time to align Maryland policy with its goals. The Sierra Club has long advocated that state policy should not incentivize any type of combustion. Removing trash incineration from the RPS is a critical step towards Maryland's long term clean energy goals.

For these reasons, the Maryland Sierra Club urges a favorable report on HB 166.

Susan Olsen
Clean Energy Legislative Team
Susan.Olsen@MDSierra.org

Josh Tulkin
Chapter Director
Josh.Tulkin@MDSierra.org

HB 166 Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligi
Uploaded by: Mariana Rosales
Position: FAV

The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

The Nature Conservancy
Maryland/DC Chapter
425 Barlow Pl., Ste 100
Bethesda, MD 20814

tel (301) 897-8570
fax (301) 897-0858
nature.org

Thursday, March 7, 2024

TO: C. T. Wilson, Chair of the House Economic Matters Committee, and Committee Members
FROM: Mariana Rosales, The Nature Conservancy, Director of Climate; Cait Kerr, The Nature Conservancy, State Policy Manager.
POSITION: Support HB 166 Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources – Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) supports HB 166 offered by Delegate Stewart. HB 166 will remove waste incineration from the list of sources eligible as a Tier 1 renewable source under Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS). This bill is consistent with Maryland's commitments to reduce carbon emissions by 60% of 2006 levels by 2031 and to achieving net-zero emissions by 2045. In the Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, MDE calls for adopting a Clean Power Standard which is stated to include eliminating existing eligibility and subsidies for municipal solid waste incineration. Furthermore, the Maryland Commission on Climate Change recommends in its 2023 Annual Report removing solid waste incineration as an eligible source in the RPS due to its contributions to greenhouse gas emissions. HB 166 follows through on the RPS's original intentions to invest in healthy, emissions-reducing energy sources and sets Maryland up for success in achieving our carbon reduction goals.

Waste incineration subsidies are contradictory to the RPS's goals – incineration is amongst the highest-emitting methods for energy production. Incinerators release nitrogen oxides, major precursors of ground level ozone, and sulfur dioxide, both of which can cause and worsens respiratory illnesses. Incinerators can also emit mercury and lead, which are unsafe for human exposure in any amount. These subsidies are costing the state increasing amounts of RPS funds while emitting carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, in addition to air pollutants that are known to harm human health.

Eliminating waste incineration from eligibility and subsidies under the RPS is a budget-neutral way to free up funds for renewable energy investments. According to the Public Service Commission's RPS compliance report for 2022, waste incineration accounted for 6.9% of Tier 1 renewable energy credits. Under HB 166, this spending would be redistributed to support renewable energy sources that remain in the RPS. This would further Maryland's investment in reducing emissions for the health and future of our state.

TNC thanks Delegate Stewart for introducing this bill, which would end state renewable energy subsidies for solid waste incineration and increase investments in Maryland's net-zero future.

Therefore, we urge a favorable report on HB 166.

Maryland Health Professionals for a Healthy Climat

Uploaded by: Maryland Health Professionals for Healthy Climate N/A

Position: FAV

March 7, 2024

Support: HB166 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The undersigned health professionals support HB 166 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Reclaim Renewable Energy Act, and we thank Delegate Stewart for his leadership on this issue.

This bill removes municipal solid waste incineration from the state's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS), and as a result would make more of Maryland's investments and Renewable Energy Credits available for truly renewable sources of energy like wind and solar.

Investments in renewable energy are investments in public health, namely because of the massive reduction in air pollution. Our reliance on fossil fuels for energy has created excessive air pollution across the country, a burden which is disproportionately borne by low-income communities and communities of color. Burning municipal solid waste for energy similarly produces byproducts that include particulate matter and dioxins. Particulate matter can make its way deep into the lungs and impact peoples' ability to breathe, impact children's lung development, and also impact people's mental health and learning ability because these microscopic particles can cross the blood-brain barrier.

The chart included below from a 2017 report estimates a cost of nearly $22 million in Maryland from the direct health impacts from the Wheelabrator trash incinerator in Baltimore for just one year and one pollutant, PM 2.5. Investing our renewable energy money in trash incinerators that emit similar pollution as coal plants and other fossil fuel energy sources is a misuse of limited state dollars. Eliminating trash incineration from the RPS so that more money can be invested in real, emissions-free renewable energy will get more renewable energy on the grid, which will benefit every Marylander.

Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan (CPRP), in December 2023, includes a recommendation to remove municipal solid waste from the state's RPS, and recognizes that legislation is needed to make this change. SB 146 codifies the CPRP's recommendation. In total, the recommendations included in the CPRP are expected to deliver additional health benefits of $142 million to $321 million in 2031 compared to current policies. The Maryland Commission on Climate Change also included a recommendation to remove municipal solid waste from the RPS as part of their 2023 annual report.

The undersigned health professionals urge a favorable report on HB 166 and appreciate your consideration.

Frances Stewart, M.D.

Christine D. Berg, M.D

Maria W. Merritt, PhD

Michael Ichniowski, M.D.

CHESAPEAKE PSR PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

MARYLAND HEALTH PROFESSIONALS FOR A HEALTHY CLIMATE

MdPHA Maryland Public Health Association

Evan Gombert, MPH, MS

Elise Wilson MBE, RN

Walter Weiss MD, MPH

Elizabeth Ryznar, MD, MSc

Hal Kronsberg, MD

Gwen DuBois, M.D.
Chesapeake PSR

Jonathan Gorman, Psy.D.
Towson Therapy Group

Mona Sarfaty, M.D., MPH
Medical Society Consortium on Climate & Health

Rebecca Rehr, MPH
Maryland League of Conservation Voters

Katie Huffling, DNP, RN, CNM, FAAN
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

Table 2. Annual Maryland Human Health Effects and Monetary Valuations Associated With the $PM_{2.5}$ Air Pollution Impacts from the Wheelabrator Plant

Health Endpoint	Number Per Year	Total Dollar Valuation (2010$)
Respiratory Hospital Admissions (Kloog et al., 2012; Zanobetti et al., 2009)	0.3[a]	$10,763
Cardiovascular Hospital Admissions (Bell et al., 2008; Peng et al., 2008; Peng et al., 2009; Zanobetti et al., 2009)	0.4[a]	$16,803
Acute Bronchitis (Dockery et al., 1996)	3.0	$1,462
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal (Pope et al., 2006; Sullivan et al., 2005; Zanobetti et al., 2009; Zanobetti & Schwartz, 2006)	0.2[b]	$29,201
Emergency Room Visits (Glad et al., 2012; Mar et al., 2010; Slaughter et al., 2005)	2.4[b]	$1,003
Asthma Exacerbation Symptoms (Mar et al., 2004; Ostro et al., 2001)	59.5[b]	$3,435
Upper Respiratory Symptoms (Pope et al., 1991)	55.3	$1,841
Lower Respiratory Symptoms (Schwartz and Neas, 2000)	38.8	$815
Minor Restricted Activity Days (Ostro & Rothschild, 1989)	1770.8	$120,838
Work Days Lost (Ostro et al., 1987)	297.6	$55,091
Chronic Bronchitis (Abbey et al., 1995)	1.5	$419,644[c]
Mortality, All Causes (Krewski et. al, 2009)	2.2	$21,160,530
Total Valuation		$21,821,425

a Pooled effects with averaging approach, as per EPA BenMAP default setting.
b Pooled effects with random/fixed effects approach, as per EPA BenMAP default setting.
c Pooled effects with summation approach, as per EPA BenMAP default setting.

Source: WRITTEN REPORT OF GEORGE D. THURSTON REGARDING THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACTS OF AIR EMISSIONS FROM THE WHEELABRATOR FACILITY, November 20, 2017
https://www.cbf.org/document-library/cbf-reports/thurston-wheelabrator-health-impacts-2017.pdf

HB0166- Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard- Eligi

Uploaded by: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus

Position: FAV

MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

Lowe House Office Building, 6 Bladen Street, Room 200 · Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Phone 410-841-3374 | 301-858-3374 · 800-492-7122 *Ext.* 3374 · *Fax* 410-841-3342 | 301-858-3342
latino.caucus@house.state.md.us · www.mdlatinocaucus.org

DAVID FRASER-HIDALGO, CHAIR
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JESSE T. PIPPY, SECRETARY
JASON A. AVILA GARCIA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO: Delegate C. T. Wilson, Chair
Delegate Brian M. Crosby, Vice Chair
Economic Matters Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus
DATE: 2/28/24
RE: HB166 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard- Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)

The MLLC supports HB166- Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard- Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024), 2024

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB166.

Excluding the use of energy derived from waste is crucial for maintaining a safe and clean environment. Using waste as a renewable source has negative effects on both the environment and individuals, especially individuals of color. Studies have shown that most of the individuals living in the country's most polluted environments are people of color.[1] The American Lung Association found that disproportionate exposure to pollution in the Latino community has been linked to premature death, childhood asthma attacks, and several other chronic health conditions.[2] A study conducted by Harvard University reinforced that air pollution in predominantly Latino zip codes is 14% higher than predominantly white areas for particulate matter and several other contaminants.[3] Reducing the amount of toxic contaminants being released into the environment would significantly reduce environmental justice disparities faced by the Latino population in Maryland and could reduce the health problems that these communities are experiencing as a result of air pollution.

HB166 alters the definition of a "Tier 1 renewable source" for the purpose of excluding any energy derived from waste and refusing from being eligible for inclusion in the renewable energy portfolio standard and generally relating to the renewable energy standard. This bill considers solar energy, wind, qualifying biomass, methane from anaerobic decomposition of organic materials, geothermal energy, ocean energy, fuel cell electricity, hydroelectric power plants (of less than 30 megawatts in capacity), poultry-to-litter energy, waste-to-energy, refuse-derived fuel, energy from a thermal biomass system, and wastewater to be Tier 1 renewable sources.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB166.

[1] Natural Resources Defense Council
[2] American Lung Association
[3] American Lung Association

HB 166 - CBF - FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Matt Stegman
Position: FAV

CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education

House Bill 166
Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources – Alterations
(Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)

Date: March 7, 2024
To: Economic Matters Committee

Position: **Favorable**
From: Doug Myers
Maryland Senior Scientist

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** HB 166, which removes waste-to-energy incineration as a Tier 1 source of renewable energy.

Chesapeake Bay Program studies have determined that one-third of the nitrogen pollution that ends up in the water comes from air pollution. Waste-to-energy incineration facilities emit tons of nitrogen oxides from their stacks each year: this air pollution is carried to the Bay and its tributaries as soon as it rains. Negative health outcomes from exposure to particulate matter and other air pollutants are well documented, and shown to disproportionately affect low-income communities, for example the Curtis Bay community in Baltimore City.

While we understand that, from an economic standpoint, it may be difficult for local governments to end their relationships with facilities like the Wheelabrator in Baltimore City, it does not make sense for the State to continue to subsidize incinerator facilities through the renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS). The contributions to both air and water pollution of waste-to-energy incinerators are contrary to the spirit of the RPS program, negatively affecting the Bay and Marylanders.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 166.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

Maryland Office ▪ Philip Merrill Environmental Center ▪ 6 Herndon Avenue ▪ Annapolis ▪ Maryland ▪ 21403

Badeker_HB166 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.pdf
Uploaded by: Melissa Badeker
Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition (BTEC). I am a resident of **District 8. I am testifying in support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024, HB166.**

SURJ BALTIMORE

Showing Up for Racial Justice

Maryland needs to take action on climate change, and needs to find ways to do so this year that do not cost any money out of the state budget. As Senate President Ferguson recently said “this is a year about prioritizing the resources that we have.” Over three years, the total subsidies to trash incinerators (including out-of-state companies) through Maryland’s RPS ballooned from $11.5 million in 2020 to $24.7 million in 2022, while a new 2023 study in PLOS Climate found that “incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity produced than any other power source” - including coal plants. That makes this subsidy doubly bad policy for Marylanders and our goals and a perfect target for cuts. This bill does just that by excluding incineration of waste and refuse-derived fuel from the “tier1 renewable source” category of the state’s renewable energy portfolio.

The state isn’t the only stakeholder being forced to pay subsidies to polluting fuel sources under the guise of renewable energy: so are state taxpayers. The RPS subsidy is paid by electric utilities, and ultimately comes out of our utility bills. We deserve to know that when we’re paying for renewable energy, we’re actually helping support the renewable energy we need to fight climate change and clean our air.

Finally, the subject matter experts in the state’s own Department of the Environment and Commission on Climate Change both recently published reports supporting this action.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024, HB166.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Melissa Badeker
3020 Linwood Avenue, Parkville MD 21234
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

HB 166 Michael Blain testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Michael Blain
Position: FAV

PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND
P.O. Box 7595, Largo MD 20792
ProgressiveMaryland.org
Info@progressivemaryland.org

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: Michael Blain
DATE: March 7, 2024
POSITION: Favorable

Dear Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

As a concerned resident of Takoma Park in District 47B and a member of the Progressive Maryland Environmental Justice Task Force, I submit this written testimony in strong support of HB0166, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act. I am also a videographer and small business owner, and a Maryland ratepayer.

I am staunchly opposed to subsidizing dirty energy such as trash incineration with my utility fees.

Currently, Maryland includes trash incineration in its Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS), inaccurately labeling incineration as a "renewable" energy source. Like George Orwell's infamous "War is peace" from his book *1984*, this is truly a false and deceptive labeling of reality. Trash incineration is ***not*** renewable energy and, in fact, burning trash produces serious environmental and public health risks.

According to a peer-reviewed study by Neil Tangri, published in the journal *PLOS Climate* in June 2023, "Incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity than any other power source." They also emit highly reactive and poisonous nitrogen oxide (NO_x) and sulfur dioxide (SO_2) gasses, as well as heavy metal pollutants such as mercury and lead that increase rates of cancer, asthma, and other respiratory and neurological illnesses in nearby communities.

To make matters worse, in recent years Maryland has increased the amount of money it spends on subsidizing trash incineration, due to the market-based structure of our state's renewable portfolio standards (RPS). Total subsidies to trash ballooned from $11.5 million in 2020 to $24.7 million in 2022. This wastes more taxpayer money that would be better spent supporting actual renewable energy sources. As members of the Economic Matters Committee, I hope you share my outrage that major companies such BRESCO, which poison people and undermine our climate goals, receive any portion of the limited RPS monies that we desperately need to address climate change and reduce air pollution.

I ask you to redirect our state's resources toward truly renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and geothermal. Please vote in support of HB0166 and demonstrate Maryland's commitment to clean energy, environmental justice and a healthy future for our state.

Best,

Michael Blain
7220 15th Ave.
Takoma Park, MD 20912
citizenblain@gmail.com

HB 0166 Testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Mikal Rashid
Position: FAV

PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND
P.O. Box 6988 Largo, MD 20792
www.ProgressiveMaryland.org
Contact@ProgressiveMaryland.org
Facebook.com/ProgressiveMaryland
@Progressive_MD

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: Mikal Rashid
DATE: March 7, 2024
POSITION: Favorable

Greetings,

My name is Mikal Rashid. I'm a former Truck Driver, and a resident of Cherry Hill, South Baltimore, Senate district 46, downwind of the BRESCO Waste to Energy Incinerator. I'd like to share with you why I believe you should support the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

When I moved to Cherry Hill, I was in perfect health. I walked considerably for work, and I exercised, played sports, and generally enjoyed life. This was in 2018. I had noticed a "thickness" in the air in the area, but I moved here out of poverty, so this was something I was forced to live with.

As time went on, I began to notice my breathing was becoming more difficult. I was also developing severe rheumatic illness. As of 2020, I became a truck driver, my dream job. I felt great out on the road, but when I was at home, and I eventually became a local driver, my health continued to deteriorate. It has become, as of 2024, so bad, that my doctors became seriously concerned, and I no longer work as a consequence. I was diagnosed in mid-late 2023 with several rheumatic illnesses and severe asthma, and some other asthma associated health complications. As I'm writing this now, I'm on several medications, and in excruciating pain. I cannot walk more than a few feet now. Every action I take is incredibly painful, and I suffer from a phenomenon known as "brain zaps" due to the medication I take, which prevents me from being able to cook or drive for myself most days. My life has become agony.

What's worse, is that I do not have an income. So, my daughter, who I should mention, was born not breathing, after we had been living here in 2018, now suffers along with me in that she has to rely solely on her mother, who was fortunate enough to have moved out before developing severe complications. I was on a mere trucker's salary at my peak income, so I did not have that luxury, as is the case with many of the predominantly black and brown residents here.

My doctors are largely in agreement that environmental pollution is the likely cause of my health issues. I would like to emphasize this point. Environmental pollution is the likely cause of my health issues.
I do not believe that it is just, that the citizens of Maryland, including those who are impacted the most by the environmentally racist pollution generated by what is scientifically considered non-renewable, unclean energy production, should be forced to unjustly subsidize that very energy production, and subsequently the pollution, that, in my case, and in many other's, has effectively destroyed, and possibly ended our lives.

Sincerely,
Mikal Rashid

MFINCH_In Favor HB166.pdf
Uploaded by: Molly Finch
Position: FAV

Testimony in Support of HB0166
Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations
(Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)
House Economic Matters Committee on 3/7/24

To Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby and Committee Members,

As a current master's student focused on applied research in the environment within and surrounding Baltimore, and a resident of Baltimore City, I urge a favorable report on HB0166. The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act removes trash incineration from the state's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) Tier I list; this aligns with the states Climate Action Plan and supports Maryland in reaching reduced emissions goals set out in the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022.

I support this bill because it is an important step in supporting subsidized investment renewable energy that does not rely on people's waste, but on actual renewable resources like solar, wind, and geothermal.

It's important to note that the bill does not stop trash incineration, but by removing this energy source from the RPS Tier I list it stops subsitizing it as a renewable energy source in Maryland.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look to the committee to give HB0166 a favorable report.

Sincerely,
Molly Finch

Personal phone: 410-693-3631
Personal email: mgsfinch@gmail.com

HB0166-FAV-DTMG-3-7-24.pdf
Uploaded by: Olivia Bartlett
Position: FAV

Olivia Bartlett, DoTheMostGood Maryland Team

COMMITTEE: Economic Matters

TESTIMONY ON: HB0166 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)

POSITION: FAVORABLE

HEARING DATE: March 7, 2024

BILL CONTACT: Delegate Vaughn Stewart

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grass-roots organization with members in all districts in Montgomery County as well as in several nearby districts. DTMG supports legislation and activities that keep all Maryland residents healthy and safe in a clean environment. DTMG therefore supports legislation aimed at addressing climate change so that our children and grandchildren will have a better future. DTMG strongly supports HB0166 because trash incineration is not "clean energy", contributes to climate change and air pollution, and wastes taxpayer money.

The Maryland General Assembly has passed several bills in recent years committing Maryland as a leader on addressing climate change. To fulfill these promises, Maryland needs to be funding truly clean renewable energy. Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards (RPS) are an important tool to support clean, renewable energy development and decrease greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and air pollution from the electricity sector. However, trash incineration is a very dirty energy source. Burning trash releases 90% more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of energy than burning coal. The 2023 Annual Report of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change and Governor Moore's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, released in December, 2023, both recommend removing trash incineration from the RPS as proposed in HB0166.

In addition to undermining Maryland's GHG reduction and climate change goals, keeping trash incineration in the RPS also wastes Maryland taxpayer money. Maryland is the only state in the country that includes burning of trash in Tier 1 "renewable energy" and thus allows incinerator operators to receive millions of dollars in taxpayer subsidies from the state. These Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) help to prop up a dirty energy source, make it more profitable, stifle new clean energy development, and disincentivize other ways to reduce trash in Maryland.

Due to the market-based nature of the RPS subsidy (the amount of electricity produced by incinerators has not increased), the total subsidies to trash incinerators through Maryland's RPS ballooned from $11.5 million in 2020 to $24.7 million in 2022, for a total of about $51 Million for the three years ending in 2022. This is an incredible windfall for the incinerators, and bad for Marylanders. Furthermore, most of this Maryland taxpayer subsidy has actually gone to an

incinerator in Lorton, Virgina. HB0166 will allow this subsidy, which is now wasted on trash incinerators, to go to clean renewable energy sources like solar and wind facilities in Maryland.

In summary, Maryland needs to invest in real climate solutions, and finding funding for the $1 billion called for in Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan will be a significant challenge. Passing HB0166 will better prioritize the money we already spend and ensure that taxpayer subsidized RECs support truly clean energy and incentivize investment in solar, wind and other clean sources of renewable energy in Maryland.

For all these reasons, DoTheMostGood strongly recommends a **FAVORABLE** report on HB0166.

Respectfully submitted,

Olivia Bartlett
DoTheMostGood Maryland Team
oliviabartlett@verizon.net
240-751-5599

HB0166 testimony 3-5-24.pdf
Uploaded by: Randall Goldberg
Position: FAV

Randall E Goldberg

8126 Orchard Blossom Ln.

Severn, MD 21144

443-220-3323

RE: HB 0166

I write in support of HB0166.

The burning of trash for energy should no longer be given renewable energy credits and subsidies.

It’s NOT clean and is in fact poisoning the people living close to the plant as it spews toxins into the atmosphere.

Thank you.

Randall E. Goldberg

HB166- MDLCV Support - Reclaim Renewable Energy Ac

Uploaded by: Rebecca Rehr

Position: FAV

MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

March 7, 2024

Support: HB166 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV supports HB166 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Reclaim Renewable Energy Act and we thank Delegate Stewart for his consistent leadership on this issue. Removing municipal waste incineration from the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) is listed as a Legislative Action in the Maryland Climate Pollution Reduction Plan.

In 2011, Maryland added waste incineration to our state's RPS, making it eligible for the same state investments and renewable energy credits as truly renewable energy, such as wind and solar. Byproducts of waste incineration include particulate matter, heavy metals like lead and mercury, and dioxins. This burden of toxic air pollution is borne most heavily in the communities surrounding an incinerator, leading to significant negative health impacts and higher costs for already overburdened and underserved communities.

The Maryland Climate Pollution Reduction Plan written by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) was released on December 28, 2023. Among the policy recommendations included in the plan are revising the definitions of "qualifying resources in the RPS program to align with definitions of clean power resources under the forthcoming Clean Power Standard, **including the elimination of eligibility for municipal solid waste incineration**."

In addition, the Maryland Commission on Climate Change 2023 Annual Report includes the following recommendation: "Remove municipal solid waste incineration as an eligible source in the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) due to the energy source's contributions to the state's GHG emissions, the General Assembly should adopt legislation to remove municipal solid waste incineration as an eligible generating source from the RPS."

While more details on a Clean Power Standard are forthcoming, we have the opportunity now to implement a key piece of this recommendation by removing municipal solid waste incineration from the RPS definition. This would make the credits and investments available for truly renewable energy and in particular has the potential to support solar energy deployment to meet the RPS carve out of 14.5% solar by 2030.

Maryland LCV urges a favorable report on this important bill.

Testimony in support of HB0166.pdf
Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz
Position: FAV

HB#0166_Richard Kaplowitz_FAVORABLE

3/07/2024

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#0166 - FAVORABLE

Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)

TO: Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby and members of the Economic Matters Committee **FROM**: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#0166, Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)

My Jewish faith teaches me a "…Halakhah (Jewish law) prohibits wasteful consumption. When we waste resources, we are violating the mitzvah (commandment) of *Bal Tashhit* ("Do not destroy"). It is based on Deuteronomy 20:19-20:

> *"When in your war against a city you have to besiege it a long time in order to capture it, you must not destroy its trees, wielding the ax against them. You may eat of them, but you must not cut them down. Are trees of the field human to withdraw before you into the besieged city? Only trees that you know do no yield food may be destroyed; you may cut them down for constructing siegeworks against the city that is waging war on you, until it has been reduced."*

This law was expanded in later Jewish legal sources to include the prohibition of the wanton destruction of household goods, clothes, buildings, springs, food, or the wasteful consumption of anything … The underlying idea of this law is the recognition that everything we own belongs to God. When we consume in a wasteful manner, we damage Creation and violate our mandate to use Creation only for our legitimate benefit."

We need to look at excluding energy derived from waste and refuse from being eligible for inclusion in the renewable energy portfolio standard. The use of these resources damages our environment and poses significant health risks to populations adjacent to facilities processing this waste into energy. This dirty energy should not be part of the portfolio of energy sources in a clean and healthy Maryland power generating environment. It is wasteful consumption damaging our health, our environment, and our need to create environmental justice in affected communities.

HB0166 makes a moral statement that Maryland stands for climate justice and environmental justice and is forward looking in its approach to energy generation. **I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#0166.**

HB 166_Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home_FAV.
Uploaded by: Robert Simon
Position: FAV

Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home

Responding to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.

Hearing before the House Economic Matters Committee
Maryland General Assembly
March 7, 2024

Statement of Support (FAVORABLE)
of Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home on
HB 166, Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024

Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home (MCCH) is a lay-led organization of Catholics from parishes in the three Catholic dioceses in Maryland: the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington. It engages in education about, and advocacy based upon, the teachings of the Catholic Church relating to care for creation and respect for all life. MCCH is a grassroots voice for the understanding of Catholic social teaching held by a wide array of Maryland Catholics—over 450 Maryland Catholics have already signed our statement of support for key environmental bills in this session of the General Assembly—but it should be distinguished as an organization from the Maryland Catholic Conference, which represents the public policy interests of the bishops who lead these three dioceses.

Because we are attuned both to the cry of a distressed Earth and the cry of the poor who suffer first and most from a warming planet, MCCH would like to express our strong support for the passage of House Bill 166: the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024. In his 2015 encyclical, entitled *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*,[1] Pope Francis called for a comprehensive response to the threats from climate change, including especially "an urgent need to develop policies so that, in the next few years, the emission of carbon dioxide and other highly polluting gases can be drastically reduced (by) substituting for fossil fuels and developing sources of renewable energy." (*Laudato Si'*, no. 26)

In his 2023 apostolic exhortation on the climate crisis, *Laudate Deum*[2]—a follow-up to *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis sounds an even more urgent cry to do much more about reducing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions. "I have realized that our responses have not been adequate, while the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point. In addition to this possibility, it is indubitable that the impact of climate change will increasingly prejudice the lives and families of many persons. We will feel its effects in the areas of healthcare, sources of employment, access to resources, housing, and forced migrations." (*Laudate Deum,* no. 2)

As Catholics we are concerned with Pope Francis that "the effects of climate change are borne by the most vulnerable people, whether at home or around the world." (*Laudate Deum,* no. 3) What we do in

[1] The English text of the encyclical, to which the paragraph numbers in the parentheses refer, can be found at: https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html.
[2] The English text of this apostolic exhortation, to which the paragraph numbers in the parentheses refer, can be found at: https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html.

Maryland matters well beyond our state. As Pope Francis so movingly puts it: "The world sings of an infinite Love: how can we fail to care for it? ... God has joined us so closely to the world around us that we can feel the desertification of the soil almost as a physical ailment, and the extinction of a species as a painful disfigurement."[3]

We are moving too slowly in Maryland, where we have the power to make our climate choices on supporting truly clean and renewable energy. That is irresponsible at this point in time. We have limited resources and do not need to be subsidizing the profits of companies that only have dirty energy to offer. Our focus must be on clean, renewable energy.

House Bill 166 responds to both the cry of the poor and the cry of the Earth by eliminating public subsidies for trash incineration under Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). This energy source not only pollutes the environment and harms the health of people living in nearby communities, but even more importantly, unlike clean energy sources such as wind, solar and geothermal that Maryland should be supporting, trash incineration contributes to climate change. A 2023 study in *PLOS Climate* found that "incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity produced than *any* other power source"[4]—including coal plants. Subsidizing them takes money away from investments in the clean, renewable energy technologies we need, and that are increasingly available, to be quickly scaled up.

So, MCCH concurs with these points made by Clean Water Action and at least three dozen other environmental organizations in Maryland:

- The purpose of the RPS is to support clean, renewable energy, which Maryland and the planet needs now more than ever. Trash incineration is not clean, renewable energy.
- Maryland is wasting an increasing amount of RPS money on trash incineration, nearly half of it out of state at the Covanta incinerator in Lorton, Virginia.
- Eliminating trash incineration from the RPS is a budget-neutral means of making more money available for renewable energy.
- Eliminating trash incineration from the RPS is recommended in Maryland's *Climate Pollution Reduction Plan* and the Maryland Commission on Climate Change's *2023 Annual Report*.

All God's creatures will suffer the ravages of an overheated planet, including species extinction and rising sea levels that threaten Maryland shorelines; and if we continue to support trash incineration, then the poorest among us will be condemned to live beneath or downwind of plumes of toxic emissions, suffering higher rates of asthma or being exposed to cancer-causing emissions.

This bill will ensure that public subsidies for renewable energy through the Renewable Portfolio Standard go toward actual *clean* renewable energy and are not wasted on energy sources that emit greenhouse gases and result in harmful pollution.

For these reasons we strongly urge your support for this bill. Thank you for your consideration of our views and our respectful request for a **favorable** report on House Bill 166.

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[3] Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (24 November 2013), no. 215, English text available at https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium.html.

[4] Neil Tangri, "Waste incinerators undermine clean energy goals," *PLOS Climate* 2(6): e0000100, 1 June 2023, https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pclm.0000100.

HB166_MOS testimony_yes.pdf
Uploaded by: Robin Todd
Position: FAV

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Date: March 2, 2024

Committee: House Economic Matters Committee

Testimony on: HB166, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Position: Support: HB166

Dear Chair Wilson and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS), I am writing to express our strong support for HB166, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act. Our support is based on the following three factors.

1. Pollution

Trash incineration is a very polluting way of generating electric power. A 2023 study in PLOS Climate[1] concluded that this method released significantly more greenhouse gases per unit of electric power than any other method. The three incineration plants subsidized by Maryland's RPS released 2,500,000 tons of CO2 in 2020. addition, trash incineration releases lead and mercury. By contrast solar and wind energy do not release any greenhouse gases or the two aforementioned heavy metals. The funds currently subsidizing the incineration method should be diverted to projects which use such clean energy methods.

2. Maryland in Supporting a Virginia Facility

More money ($11,700,000) goes to the Covanta facility in Virginia, than to either of the two Maryland facilities ($4,200,000 to BRESCO in Baltimore and $$8,700,000 to the Dickerson facility in Montgomery County). Maryland taxpayers are subsidizing Virginia!

3. Higher Incinerator Subsidies but Power Output Unchanged

The subsidies for trash incineration via the Maryland RPS have doubled from $11.5 million in 2020 to $24.7 million in 2023, but the amount of electricity generated has remained the same. So Maryland is getting much less value for its money, while the incinerators' income has doubled. Maryland taxpayers should no longer be saddled with this commitment.

MOS asks that the Education, Energy and Environment Committee give a favorable report on HB166

MOS is a Maryland-based volunteer organization, founded in 1945, and now with some 2000 members, in 15 chapters throughout the state. MOS is devoted to the study, conservation and enjoyment of birds that spend at least part of their lives in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Robin G. Todd PhD
Conservation Chair
Maryland Ornithological Society
Robin.todd@mdbirds.org
10174 Green Clover Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21042

[1]PLOS Climate 2023. At:
https://journals.plos.org/climate/article?id=10.1371/journal.pclm.0000100

National Aquarium HB166 - Favorable.pdf
Uploaded by: Ryan Fredriksson
Position: FAV

NATIONAL AQUARIUM®

Date: March 7, 2024

Bill: HB 166 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)

Position: Support

Dear Chair Wilson and Members of the Committee:

The National Aquarium respectfully requests a favorable report for **House Bill 166 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)**, which would redefine "Tier 1 renewable source" of energy and exclude energy derived from waste and refuse as eligible for inclusion in the renewable energy portfolio standard.

The National Aquarium connects people with nature to inspire conservation action, through a holistic, solutions-focused approach, which includes translating ocean and climate science, building resilience through community empowerment, implementing nature-based solutions, and reducing our own carbon footprint. Our work is guided by three overarching goals to combat climate change, stop plastic pollution, and save wildlife and habitats. The National Aquarium is committed to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2035. Our ability to reach net-zero depends on the state increasing its renewable energy from truly clean and renewable sources. The perverse incentive created by including trash incineration as "renewable" in our RPS allows for it to continue to occupy space on our grid that can and should be filled with clean renewable energy like wind and solar.

Trash incineration not only exacerbates climate change; it is also linked to the plastic pollution crisis. Municipalities in Maryland, like others around the nation and the world, are unable to keep up with the increasing production of plastic and the resulting waste that primarily ends up in the environment, or in landfills or incinerators. Trash incineration adds greenhouse gas emissions and harmful air pollution to the atmosphere while also disincentivizing better waste management practices including source reduction, reuse systems, recycling and composting. To make matters worse, trash incinerators are often sited in underserved and overburdened communities. It is long overdue for the state to stop subsidizing smokestacks in communities where environmental justice must be a priority.

It is incumbent that governments at every level focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions rapidly while prioritizing a just transition away from fossil fuels. Maryland is a climate leader with ambitious goals and a commitment to environmental justice. As recommended by both the Maryland Commission on Climate Change and the state's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, the legislature must clarify that burning trash is not clean energy and should not be subsidized by ratepayers.

We urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 166.

Contact:

Ryan Fredriksson
Vice President, Government Affairs
410-385-8276
rfredriksson@aqua.org

Maggie Ostdahl
Sr. Conservation Policy Manager
410-385-8275
mostdahl@aqua.org

HB166 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.pdf
Uploaded by: Sarah Johnson
Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition (BTEC). I am a resident of District 41. **I am testifying in support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024, HB166.**

SURJ BALTIMORE

Showing Up for Racial Justice

Maryland needs to take action on climate change and needs to find ways to do so this year that do not cost any money out of the state budget. As Senate President Ferguson recently said “this is a year about prioritizing the resources that we have.” Over three years, the total subsidies to trash incinerators (including out-of-state companies) through Maryland’s RPS ballooned from $11.5 million in 2020 to $24.7 million in 2022, while a new 2023 study in PLOS Climate found that “incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity produced than any other power source” - including coal plants. That makes this subsidy doubly bad policy for Marylanders and our goals and a perfect target for cuts. This bill does just that by excluding incineration of waste and refuse-derived fuel from the “tier1 renewable source” category of the state’s renewable energy portfolio.

The state isn’t the only stakeholder being forced to pay subsidies to polluting fuel sources under the guise of renewable energy: so are state taxpayers. The RPS subsidy is paid by electric utilities, and ultimately comes out of our utility bills. We deserve to know that when we’re paying for renewable energy, we’re actually helping support the renewable energy we need to fight climate change and clean our air.

Finally, the subject matter experts in the state’s own Department of the Environment and Commission on Climate Change both recently published reports supporting this action.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024, HB166.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah Johnson
1 Merryman Court
Baltimore, MD 21210
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

3_5_24 MD Incineration Report-FINAL.pdf

Uploaded by: Senay Emmanuel
Position: FAV

I. Summary

The Maryland General Assembly should pass the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024,[i] which would eliminate trash incineration from Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS). This bill will help the state meet its climate goals by supporting healthier energy choices with no cost to the state.

Including trash incineration in the RPS is very costly for Marylanders. Between 2012 and 2022, Maryland energy providers spent about $100,000,000 subsidizing trash incinerators through Maryland's RPS. Unless the legislature acts now, these costs will get much worse. Our analysis projects that between 2023 and 2030, Maryland energy providers will waste an additional $200,000,000 subsidizing trash incineration if trash incineration remains in Maryland's RPS. These costs are passed on to consumers, likely at marked-up rates.

In addition, burning trash to produce electricity also produces high levels of greenhouse gases, toxic air pollutants, and toxic ash, which disproportionally harm overburdened communities and undermines Maryland's climate goals. If the legislature acts now, these investments can be spent supporting real renewable energy that will help to clean the grid and clean our air instead.

Maryland must fix this costly problem during this legislative session before it continues to escalate by removing trash incineration from the RPS. Marylanders want clean air and effective climate solutions. That is why the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act is supported by Maryland's new Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, the Maryland Climate Commission's 2023 Annual Report, local governments, and more than 80 environmental justice, labor, religious, climate and community organizations across Maryland.

II. Background

Maryland has ambitious climate goals. Under the Climate Solutions Now Act, passed in 2022, the state set a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 60 percent before 2031.[ii]

Maryland's RPS program is a vital part of enacting Maryland's climate plan. Maryland established the RPS program in 2004 to require electricity providers to subsidize increasing amounts of renewable energy and allow state residents to benefit from the lower costs of obtaining electricity from renewable sources.[iii]

Under Maryland's RPS, electricity suppliers must buy renewable energy credits (RECs) from qualifying energy sources to meet their required electricity sales. (See "What is a REC? It's Complicated!" below).[iv] Qualifying renewable energy sources under the RPS include energy sources such as wind, solar, geothermal, small-scale hydro, waste-to-energy, or trash incineration, and biomass.

Three waste-to-energy incinerators participate in Maryland's RPS program: the BRESCO trash incinerator in Baltimore, owned by WIN Waste; the Montgomery County Resources Recovery Facility; and the Covanta Fairfax Facility in Virginia. These facilities all burn municipal waste to produce electricity and harmful byproducts like ash and air pollution. Municipal waste includes everyday household items, such as product packaging, clothing, batteries, and food scraps.

What is a REC? It's Complicated!

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, a renewable energy certificate, or REC is a market-based instrument that represents the property rights to the environmental, social, and other non-power attributes of renewable electricity generation. RECs are issued when one megawatt-hour (MWh) of electricity is generated and delivered to the electricity grid from a renewable energy resource.

Once electrons flow into the grid, they are indistinguishable from one another, making it impossible to know whether they were generated by solar, coal, or gas-fired power plants, trash incineration, or some other source. Issuing RECs helps address this tracking and accounting problem. PJM, the operator of the large electricity grid of which Maryland is a small part (about 8 percent), issues an electronic time, date, and power generating station ID Stamp for each unit (megawatt hour or MWh) of electricity generated within its purview. For sources designated as "renewable," this time, date and power station ID become a "Renewable Energy Credit" or certificate (REC). The definition of renewable energy varies by state.

In Maryland, electricity providers meet their renewable energy requirements through the purchase of "unbundled" RECs. A "bundled" REC is one sold with the electricity itself. That means the buyer of the REC— usually an electricity provider — gets both the electricity and the REC as a unit. If the electricity and RECs are "unbundled," the facility owner sells the electricity to one electricity provider and the RECs to another buyer. This legal scheme allows Maryland electricity providers to buy electricity produced from fossil fuels and RECs generated from trash incinerators to comply with the state's RPS requirements.

The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act would prevent trash incinerators from being eligible for Maryland's RPS. This means these three incinerators would stop receiving subsidies provided by the sale of RECs used for Maryland's RPS. It would not require these facilities to shut down. Rather, Maryland electricity suppliers would no longer be allowed to use RECs bought from trash incinerators to satisfy their renewable energy requirements under Maryland's RPS. Under current Maryland law, electricity providers can buy trash incinerator RECs and pass the costs of buying these RECs on to the consumers. As a result, Maryland ratepayers are currently subsidizing these incinerators because ratepayers end up paying for the incinerators' RECs through their utility bills.

III. Trash Incineration Harms Public Health and the Environment

Tens of millions of dollars each year in subsidies are sent to trash incinerator companies that emit greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution in communities near the incinerator, many of whom are already overburdened with high pollution levels. This contradicts the foundational premise of the RPS and backtracks on key commitments established by the Maryland General Assembly in the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 regarding emissions reductions.

EPA's 2020 Emissions Inventory reports annual emissions of over 2.5 million tons of CO2 released by the three incinerators.

EPA's Emissions Inventory indicates that in 2020, the three incinerators profiting from Maryland's RPS emitted 2.5 million tons of CO2 into the atmosphere – while the wind, solar, and geothermal power that could have been supported by those dollars instead would have emitted zero.

Table 1. CO2 Emissions Per Year by Incinerator

Facility	CO2 Emissions/Year
WIN Waste Baltimore ("BRESCO")	690,033 tons
Montgomery Co. Resource Recovery	579,804 tons
Covanta Fairfax	1,271,801 tons

A 2023 peer-reviewed study in PLOS Climate found that "incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity produced than *any* other power source" and that incineration emits 1.7 times as much greenhouse gasses and 4.8 as much nitrogen oxides as coal per megawatt-hour.[v]

Emissions from trash incinerators are so high that they decrease the effectiveness of the entire Renewable Portfolio Standard program. In its *Final Report Concerning the Maryland Renewable Portfolio Standard*, the Maryland Power Plant Research Program analyzed the

emissions profile of the RPS and found that "the Maryland RPS has resulted in modest greenhouse gas reductions but may be working at cross-purposes with the state's efforts to reduce nitrogen oxides (NOx) and sulfur dioxide (SO2) emissions," in part because of the emissions from trash incineration.[vi]

The report also analyzed the CO2 emissions per megawatt-hour of energy sources included in the RPS. This analysis showed that the trash incinerators in Maryland's RPS produce the most CO2 per megawatt-hour, orders of magnitude more than anything else included in the RPS. In particular, the trash incinerators included in Maryland's RPS emitted more than four times more CO2 per megawatt-hour than black liquor, which the General Assembly wisely eliminated from the RPS in 2021. In contrast, wind, solar, hydropower, and geothermal, of course, emit no CO2.

If trash incineration remains in the RPS, between 2023 and 2030, Maryland energy providers will waste an additional $200,000,000 to buy REC's from trash incinerators.

Lastly, including trash incineration in Maryland's RPS program decreases the incentive to adopt more sustainable waste practices. The current RPS artificially cheapens the worst methods of dealing with our waste by handing extra profits to the companies that own trash incinerators. Waste alternatives like composting and recycling are competitors to trash incineration; those industries can create hundreds of high-quality green jobs that don't pollute.[vii] Maryland's RPS is creating a financial environment where the worst method of dealing with our waste, trash incineration, is artificially made more competitive against newer, safer alternatives like composting and recycling, which have significantly less environmental and community impact.

IV. Removing Incineration Will Provide Real Benefits to Maryland Consumers

Removing incineration from the RPS will help spur better and more effective climate solutions.

A. Subsidizing Trash Incinerators is Very Costly

Subsidizing trash incineration under Maryland's RPS is a costly business. In fact, trash incineration is more costly to subside than wind of small hydropower facilities.

In 2022, the average price for a REC in 2022 from trash incineration was $22.96, while the price of a REC from onshore wind was $19.54 and from hydroelectric was $18.75.[viii] The price of RECs from trash incinerators nearly tripled between 2020 and 2022, the last year these prices are publicly available, and have risen over seven-fold in the previous ten years.

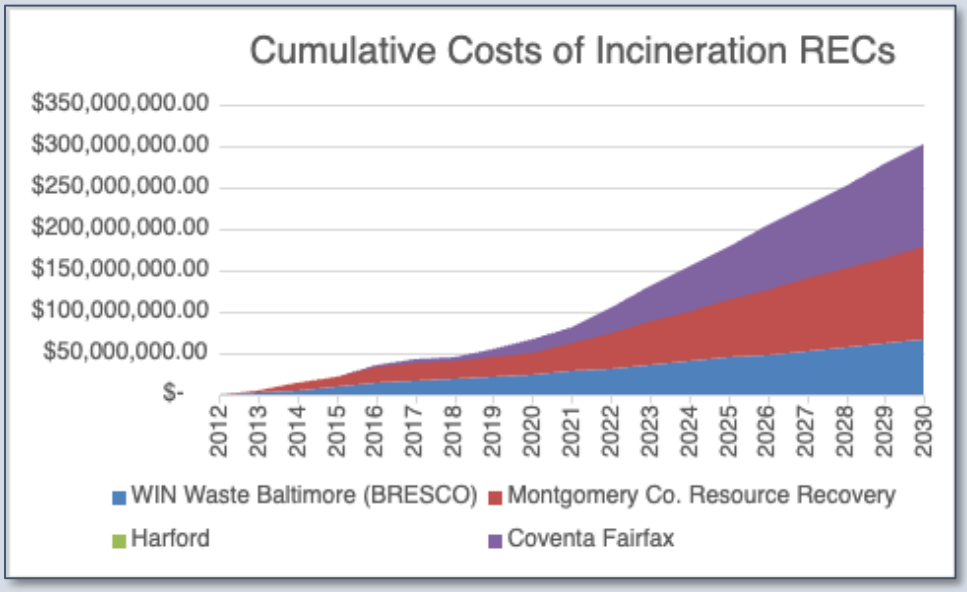
The Public Service Commission's latest report on the RPS says that in 2022, Maryland energy companies spent millions buying RECs from three incinerators to satisfy Maryland's RPS:

- $8,776,070 for 382,233 RECs from the Montgomery County incinerator
- $4,203,999 for 183,101 RECs from Wheelabrator in Baltimore
- $11,733,532 from 511,045 RECs from Covanta Fairfax

These wasteful subsidies will continue to add up unless the Maryland General Assembly acts now to pass the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

Between 2012 and 2030, we estimate that Maryland ratepayers will spend about 300 million dollars subsidizing dirty trash incinerators under the state's RPS.[ix] *(See Appendix A)*

Graph 1: Costs of Subsidizing Incinerators (Past, Current and Projections into the Future)



	Cumulative Costs
Montgomery County Incinerator	$112,811,439.87
WIN Waste Baltimore (BRESCO)	$66,542,246.60
Harford Plant	$28,611.94
Covanta Fairfax Incinerator	$124,473,487.85
Total	$303,855,786.26

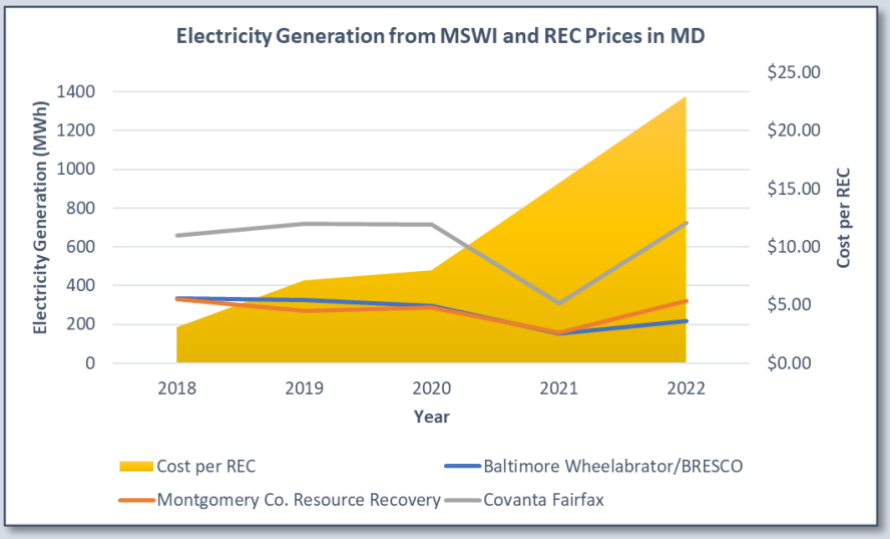
The good news is that by acting now, the General Assembly can avoid most of that waste. Maryland energy providers spent $106,146,492 buying RECs from trash incinerators between 2012 and 2022. Our analysis shows that if trash incineration remains in the RPS, between 2023 and 2030, that amount will more than double: Maryland energy providers will spend at least an additional $200,000,000 to buy RECs from trash incinerators unless the General Assembly acts now to eliminate trash incineration from the Renewable Portfolio Standard.

These figures are likely to underestimate the costs to Maryland consumers. This is because the prices of the RECs reported by the PSC reflect the costs of the RECs to the electricity supplier, not the costs passed on to the consumer.[x]

B. These Subsidies Could be Better Spent

Increasing investments in waste-to-energy has not and will not lead to increasing returns of energy. Despite the ballooning value of the subsidies, there has been little to no additional generation of energy, and in some cases, production has decreased dramatically. From 2018-2022, the price per REC for RECs from incinerators rose over sevenfold, increasing from $3.12/REC in 2018 to $22.96/REC in 2022. Concurrently, electricity generation from Baltimore's incinerator decreased by 35% from an annual output of 335 MWh to 219 MWh. [xii]

Graph 2: Cumulative Costs of Trash Incinerator (MSWI) RECs in Maryland Renewable Portfolio Standard



	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
WIN Waste Baltimore (BRESCO) (MWh)	335.277	324.221	297.347	151.773	218.645
Montgomery Co. Resource Recovery (MWh)	331.086	271.601	288.310	157.780	322.651
Covanta Fairfax (MWh)	658.618	718.267	716.327	309.763	724.286
Cost of REC MSWI	$3.12	$7.14	$7.99	$15.46	$22.96

If the General Assembly acts now to eliminate trash incineration from the RPS, these hundreds of millions of dollars can instead be used to support clean energy projects that create increasing amounts of clean energy with greater benefits to Maryland consumers and help fight climate change.

v. Support is Overwhelming, and the General Assembly Must Act Now

There is more good news. Removing trash is widely supported by Maryland political leaders, community groups and environmental and public health organizations.

At the end of 2023, Maryland's Department of the Environment published the Governor's climate plan known as the Climate Pollution Reduction Plan (CPRP) which explicitly recommends removing trash incineration from the RPS.[xi] This is in addition to Maryland's Commission on Climate Change recommending the same in its 2023 Report.[xii]

> Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan "calls for the definitions of qualifying resources in the RPS program to align with definitions of clean power resources under the forthcoming Clean Power Standard, including the elimination of eligibility for municipal solid waste incineration." (pg. 21)
>
> Maryland's Commission on Climate Change states, "Due to the energy source's contributions to the state's GHG emissions, the General Assembly should adopt legislation to remove municipal solid waste incineration as an eligible generating source from the RPS." (pg. 15)

In the past few months, several community organizations have worked together to host community meetings and a rally, which have educated and empowered hundreds of impacted residents to take action through advocacy by testifying to their lived experiences and engaging their elected leaders, calling for the passage of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act. Over 80 climate, environmental, environmental justice, community and business organizations have signed a letter supporting the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

With broad public support and support from a bipartisan group of governmental and environmental justice leaders across Maryland, now is the time for the General Assembly to act and prevent even more money being wasted subsidizing trash incinerators.

Appendix A.

FOOTNOTES

[i] House Bill 166, Senate Bill 146
[ii] See, https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/ClimateChange/Pages/index.aspx#:~:text=Maryland%20has%20set%20the,net%20zero%20emissions%20by%202045.

[iii] https://www.psc.state.md.us/electricity/renewable-energy/#:~:text=Maryland's%20Renewable%20Portfolio%20Standard%20(RPS,electricity%20generated%20from%20renewable%20sources.
[iv] If electricity suppliers fail to acquire sufficient RECs to satisfy the RPS requirement, they are required to make an Alternative Compliance Payment (ACP) to the state, which uses the money to support the creation of new renewable energy sources in the State.

[v] https://journals.plos.org/climate/article?id=10.1371/journal.pclm.0000100
[vi] https://dnr.maryland.gov/pprp/Documents/FinalRPSReportDecember2019.pdf
[vii] https://ilsr.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Why-Should-Baltimore-Recycling-More-Report-final.pdf
[viii] https://www.psc.state.md.us/wp-content/uploads/CY22-RPS-Annual-Report_Final-w-Corrected-Appdx-A.pdf Page 43. This is the latest publicly available information on REC prices by fuel source.
[ix] In 2012, waste-to-energy was moved from a Tier 2 energy source to a Tier 1 energy source. See Appendix A for costs and prices from 2008-2022 and Maryland's Annual RPS report for a distinction between the Tier 1 and Tier 2 energy sources. The prices for RECs are much higher for Tier 1 sources than Tier 2 sources.
[x] This is because the electricity providers are required to report the cost of "retired" RECs, which RECs used to comply with the RPS, not any costs passed on to the consumer. These costs are not disclosed in consumers' electricity bills.
[xi] https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/ClimateChange/Maryland%20Climate%20Reduction%20Plan/Maryland%27s%20Climate%20Pollution%20Reduction%20Plan%20-%20Final%20-%20Dec%2028%202023.pdf
[xii] https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/ClimateChange/MCCC/Documents/MCCC%20Annual%20Report%202023/MCCC%20Annual%20Report%202023.pdf

HB166.pdf
Uploaded by: Shannon Moore
Position: FAV

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

DIVISION OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Shannon Moore, Director

HB 166 – Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources – Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)

DATE:	March 7, 2024
COMMITTEE:	House Economic Matters Committee
POSITION:	Favorable
FROM:	Shannon Moore, Director, Division of Energy and Environment

Thank you for your consideration of HB 166 – Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024). As the Director of the Division of Energy and Environment in Frederick County, I urge the committee to give HB 166 a favorable report.

Currently, the State's Teir I Renewable Portfolio Standard program subsidizes pollution to include particulates and ground level ozone precursors. These emissions, in turn, create environmental justice concerns for populations with asthma and lung disease. Therefore, alterations of this program have the opportunity to facilitate the intended purpose of the program which is to reduce carbon dioxide equivalent emissions and increase carbon neutral energy sources.

For these reasons, Frederick County is in support of HB 166 – Reclaim Renewable Energy Act. Thank you for your consideration. On behalf of Frederick County Government, I urge a favorable report.

Respectfully,

Shannon Moore
Director
Division of Energy and Environment
Frederick County Government
30 N. Market St., Frederick, MD 21701
(O) 301.600.1413 (C) 240.608.7406

testimony Template SirJames.pdf

Uploaded by: SirJames Weaver
Position: FAV

PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND
P.O. Box 6988 Largo, MD 20792
www.ProgressiveMaryland.org
Contact@ProgressiveMaryland.org
Facebook.com/ProgressiveMaryland
@Progressive_MD

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: SirJames Weaver
DATE: March 7, 2024
POSITION: Favorable

My name is SirJames Weaver, and I am a district 46 resident of Baltimore city. It's past time to pass the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024, which would remove trash incineration from the Maryland Portfolio Standard Program.

Through my work as Progressive Maryland's Environmental Justice Organizer, I frequent Cherry Hill in South Baltimore, and whenever I am in the area I notice I struggle to breath. In addition, almost one-hundred percent of the people that I've had conversations with, in the community, were not aware that their monthly utility bill was being used to maintain the yearly wealth of the toxic trash incinerator in Baltimore. Burning trash is not a renewable energy, as trash incineration emits more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity released greater than any other power source[1]

Our dollars should go towards real renewable energy such as solar, wind and geothermal energy, which would reduce our state's carbon footprint and put Maryland on a more prudent trajectory to become a national leader in the fight against climate change. We only have a few more years before the effects of climate change are irreversible: So I strongly advise members of this committee to pass the RREA now!

Sincerely,
SirJames

[1] https://journals.plos.org/climate/article?id=10.1371/journal.pclm.0000100

HB0166_ClimateCC_Favorable.pdf
Uploaded by: Sonia Demiray
Position: FAV

Testimony Supporting HB0166
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Thursday, March 7 2024

Position: <u>FAVORABLE</u>

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sonia Demiray, I am a resident of Frederick County, the founder of the Climate Communications Coalition, a member of MAJC, and several other coalitions that atre active across Maryland.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak. I am here to support finally cleaning up the Renewable Portfolio Standard ("RPS") and remove waste to energy from the list of sources that qualify for RPS subsidies, as stated in HB0166. This program is intended to accelerate clean energy (solar, wind, and geothermal) to fight climate change and ensure clean air for all. Letting trash incineration take up space in this program holds Maryland back from accomplishing these vital goals.

For over seven years, Frederick County residents fought hard and finally, in 2014, defeated the plans for a local waste-to-energy incinerator. We understood that such a facility pollutes the climate, harms our health, is expensive, and has a punishing effect on the communities that surround it. While activists were successful in halting a local incinerator, Frederick County citizens are still subsidizing this dirty energy because the subsidies paid to the polluters are hidden in everyone's utility bills. Most people don't know that they are –and would not agree to subsidize the three dirty incinerators located in Baltimore City, Montgomery County, and Lorton, Virginia – at the cost of $51 MM over the last 3 years alone. Almost $22 MM of this went out of state when these funds are intended to reduce climate impacting carbon emissions and increase the availability of clean energy sources in Maryland!

It is time to clean up the RPS: we need to get to zero emissions to halt the climate and extinction crises, protect all of our communities, and stop the unfair and unwarranted hidden taxation on Frederick County Citizens -and all Marylanders!- by passing the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024. Thank you.

###

Testimony in Support of HB166 – Reclaim Renewable

Uploaded by: Tom Taylor

Position: FAV

Testimony in Support of HB166 – Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

March 7, 2024

To: Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the Economic Matters Committee

As a resident of Prince George's County, I am writing to express my strong support for HB166, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

I am a community volunteer very active in numerous efforts on behalf of Maryland's environmental and ecological issues. As such, I recognize the great importance that renewable energy has in addressing climate change and maintaining good stewardship of our state's natural resources.

To seriously take on the climate change challenges, Maryland needs to give priority funding to renewable energy development. The Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), established by the legislature in 2004, is a crucial tool for supporting clean, renewable energy development and for reducing emissions from the electricity sector, and it's important to ensure that funding is being used well.

Currently under the RPS, Maryland is wasting funds on trash incineration, including a significant amount outside of the state. Trash incineration is neither clean nor renewable energy, and it is contradictory to the purpose of the RPS.

Given the current budget challenges that confront the state, eliminating trash incineration from the RPS is a budget-neutral way to direct more funding to renewable energy. Passing the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act will not utilize any additional state budget funding, and will prioritize more wise use of the existing funding.

This action also is supported in the recently released Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, developed by the Maryland Department of Energy (MDE), and in the Maryland Commission on Climate Change's 2023 Annual Report.

Burning trash is totally contradictory to the concept of clean energy. The state should end its support for it through the Renewable Portfolio Standard.

Please give a favorable report on HB166. Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

Tom Taylor
11-G Laurel Hill Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-513-9524

413529 effective date change.pdf
Uploaded by: Vaughn Stewart
Position: FAV

HB0166/413529/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

30 JAN 24
12:50:12

BY: Delegate Stewart
(To be offered in the Economic Matters Committee)

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 166
(First Reading File Bill)

On page 3, in line 26, strike "starting on or after January 1, 2024" and substitute "beginning on July 1, 2025, of the 2025 compliance year".

HB 166 FAV Del Stewart.pdf
Uploaded by: Vaughn Stewart
Position: FAV

VAUGHN STEWART
Legislative District 19
Montgomery County

Environment and Transportation Committee

Subcommittees

Environment

Land Use and Ethics

The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 220
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3528 · 301-858-3528
800-492-7122 *Ext.* 3528
Vaughn.Stewart@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of HB166
Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024
Testimony by Delegate Vaughn Stewart
March 7, 2024 • Economic Matters Committee

What the Bill Does:

The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024 (HB 166) will alter the energy sources that Maryland includes in Tier 1 of the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard by removing energy derived from waste and refuse, more commonly known as *trash incineration*. The focus on incineration considerably narrows the scope of the bill from previous years.

Why the Bill is Important:

Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) encourages the use of renewable energy by requiring Maryland energy suppliers to have a certain percentage of their energy be sourced from renewable sources. These sources are classified as Tier 1 and Tier 2. Trash incineration's inclusion in Tier 1 is not appropriate, as a bipartisan group of legislators have long argued.

Incinerators are enormous contributors to air pollution. They have been found to emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity produced than any other power source and emit more criteria air pollutants than replacement sources of energy, like natural gas. They are major sources of toxic air emissions, including dioxins as well as heavy metals, like lead and mercury, and other organic pollutants which pose health risks.[1] Dioxins are highly toxic and can cause reproductive and developmental problems, damage the immune system, interfere with hormones and cause cancer (WHO).

Significant amounts of state money reserved for renewable energy - through the trading and purchasing of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) - has instead been spent on these not-so-renewable sources. In 2022, for example, Maryland spent $24.7 million on trash incineration. That total appears

[1] Waste incinerators undermine clean energy goals, 2023. Tangri, Neil.

to be increasing, as the price per REC has climbed from $7.99/REC in 2020 to a whopping $22.96/REC in 2022.

This bill is not aimed at shutting down existing facilities–that decision is rightly in the hands of local jurisdictions. The current subsidies flow to three entities: 1) Montgomery County, which owns a facility in Dickerson, Maryland; 2) Covanta Energy, which owns a facility in Lorton, Virginia; and 3) WIN Waste Innovations, which owns a facility in Baltimore City. These subsidies are a drain on Maryland ratepayers, but are merely a drop in the bucket for both Montgomery County's budget and two highly profitable corporations' bottom lines. None of these entities credibly allege that this bill would lead to the closure of any facility. They oppose the bill because they have a fiduciary duty to operate in their shareholders' interests.

Why the Committee Should Vote Favorably:

Subsidizing trash incineration runs counter to Maryland's climate action plans and goals. Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan and the Maryland Commission on Climate Change Annual Report, both released in December 2023, call for a modification of the RPS definitions to exclude trash incineration.

And crucially, this program is corporate welfare. It's an example of the government arbitrarily picking winners and losers based on inertia, rather than sound public policy. The profitable companies who benefit from these trash incineration subsidies do not need our money. We should spend it elsewhere.

I urge the committee to vote favorably on HB 166.

(Zack Buster) Testimony in Favor of HB-166.pdf
Uploaded by: Zack Buster
Position: FAV

PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND
P.O. Box 6988 Largo, MD 20792
www.ProgressiveMaryland.org
Contact@ProgressiveMaryland.org
Facebook.com/ProgressiveMaryland
@Progressive_MD

Testimony in Favor of HB-166, Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

FROM: Zack Buster

DATE: March 5, 2024

POSITION: Favorable

Greetings, Chair C.T. Wilson, Vice Chair Brian M. Crosby, and members of the House Economic Matters Committee. My name is Zack Buster, and I am an advocate and organizer with Progressive Maryland. I am a resident of Northern Anne Arundel County, and I have seen first-hand the environmental injustice my neighbors face in South Baltimore.

From uncovered, exploding piles of coal raining hellfire from above to toxic chemical plants poisoning our citizens, the overburdened residents of South Baltimore battle dangerous levels of pollutants every day. Today, I am writing to tell you that one of those dirty health hazards, the Bresco Waste Incinerator, is currently classified as "renewable energy" and subsidized through tax credits paid for by me, a taxpayer.

The original legislative intent of the Maryland renewable energy portfolio was to encourage cleaner energy through renewables such as wind, solar, and geothermal power. However, as it currently stands in the law, burning trash is included in that portfolio. As someone who cares about the citizens of Maryland and a strong advocate for the concept of people over profit, I was outraged to find out that part of my paycheck funds a public health hazard that is killing our brothers and sisters in South Baltimore with increased rates of asthma and cancer.

This is why I am an ally and an advocate for the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act—because this act would remove waste incineration from the renewable energy tax credit portfolio. HB-166 would bring the law more in line with the legislative intent of those elected officials who sought to make a healthier, more sustainable, Maryland for all. In doing this, the bill would not only save the state money, giving us one less tax credit to pay but also save the lives of those in communities that need our help the most.

It is for these reasons I fervently and respectfully request a favorable committee report.

In Solidarity,

Zack Buster

Phone: 410-215-1403

Personal Email: zackbuster4md@gmail.com

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/zackbuster/

All My Other Links: https://linktr.ee/zackbuster

"You've got to be a thermostat rather than a thermometer. A thermostat shapes the climate of opinion; a thermometer just reflects it." — Cornel West

BDC - 2024 - HB 166 - AD Tier 1.pdf
Uploaded by: Aaron Greenfield
Position: FWA

To: **The Honorable C.T. Wilson**
Economic Matters Committee

From: **Bioenergy Devco**

Subject: **House Bill 166, Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)**

Date: **March 7, 2024**

Position: **Favorable with Amendment**

Bioenergy Devco supports with amendment House Bill 166, Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024).

This testimony is offered on behalf of Bioenergy Devco (BDC), an international leader in anaerobic digestion solutions with over 24 years of experience. BDC's exceptional team of engineers, microbial experts, biologists, chemists, agronomists, construction designers and facility managers are dedicated to delivering an environmentally sound solution that creates a true source of renewable, carbon-negative energy as well as a high nutrient soil amendment.

Bill Summary: House Bill 166 excludes energy derived from waste and refuse from the definition of "Tier 1 renewable source." As a result, this use will be ineligible for inclusion in the renewable energy portfolio standard.

While BDC supports the intent of House Bill 166, BDC requests that the bill is amended to allow for comprehensive collection of methane through all available technologies as well as the development of future collection technology. Under current law, a Tier 1 renewable source includes methane from the anaerobic digestion of organic materials only in a landfill or wastewater treatment plant. BDC seeks to allow all forms including anaerobic digestion – not just in a landfill or wastewater treatment plant – for inclusion as a Tier 1 renewable source.

Anaerobic Digestion: Anaerobic digestion (AD) is a natural, completely enclosed process in which bacteria break down organic waste (e.g. food waste, manures, etc.) in the absence of oxygen. The purpose of AD is three-fold:

- Divert organic waste from our municipal solid waste stream and prevent environmental and social impacts such as GHG emissions associated with landfills and incinerators,
- Produce biogas, which can be used locally to generate heat and / or electricity in a combined heat and power plant or processed into renewable natural gas and integrated into our energy grid.
- Produce digestate, an organic soil amendment that increases soil fertility and crop yields by returning carbon and nutrients back to soil

Locally, BDC has commissioned its first North American Anaerobic Digestion facility in Jessup, Maryland. This AD captures 115,000 tons per year of organic food waste materials that would otherwise be headed to landfills and incineration. The resulting 26,000 tons of carbon dioxide saved from the atmosphere each year has the same environmental impact that a forest area 56 times the size of Central Park provides. This facility will produce an estimated 20,000 tons of rich, fertile soil amendment for agricultural and other land use and more than 275,000 MMBTU's per year of renewable energy. This translates to approximately 30,000 equivalent tons of CO2 removed from the atmosphere. Energy produced by this facility translates to:

- Annual electricity consumption of 6,635 US households
- 1,978,417 gallons of diesel fuel
- 11 million miles of tractor trailer fuel

Amendment No. 1
On page 2, line 7, before "methane" insert "ALL FORMS OF"; on page 2, line 7 following "methane" insert "COLLECTION"; on page 2 lines 7-8, strike "in a landfill or wastewater treatment plant"

BDC respectfully requests a favorable report with amendment on House Bill 166.

Please contact Aaron J. Greenfield at 410.446.1992, if you have any questions.

HB 166 - MoCo_Elrich_FWA (GA 24).pdf
Uploaded by: Marc Elrich
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OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

March 7, 2024

TO: The Honorable C.T. Wilson
Chair, Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich
County Executive

RE: House Bill 166, *Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources – Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)*
Support with Amendment

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 166, the *Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024*.

The Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) was established to encourage the development of clean, renewable, domestic sources of electricity generation like wind and solar. This bill will refocus the RPS by removing energy derived from waste from counting as Tier 1 renewable energy sources. This change will appropriately focus investment dollars on the development of wind and solar resources in our region.

Waste-to-energy is misaligned with the goal of the RPS. These systems are primarily designed to accomplish solid waste management, generating electricity as a by-product. Including waste to-energy as a Tier 1 resource under Maryland's RPS incentivizes these systems and could slow the development of cleaner and more truly renewable energy sources.

Removing waste-to-energy from RPS eligibility will result in a short-term financial impact to Montgomery County due to the loss of revenue from the sale of renewable energy credits. However, in the long term, this change will make a very meaningful difference toward meeting our climate and zero waste goals.

I am requesting one amendment to delay the application of this change to the Tier 1 list to July 1, 2025. This will create a brief transition period to help us avoid further increases in solid waste fees in fiscal year 2025 by allowing time for the County to explore cost savings opportunities that, if identified, could reduce future rate increases. I appreciate the Sponsor's agreement to support this amendment.

With the inclusion of the referenced amendment, I respectfully request that the Economic Matters Committee give this important bill a favorable report.

cc: Members of the Economic Matters Committee

HB166 - UNF - WIN Waste Innovations - Newsletter.p
Uploaded by: Caitlin McDonough
Position: UNF

2023 IN REVIEW

EACH YEAR, WIN WASTE BALTIMORE

CONVERTS
700K tons of waste into nearly 400K megawatt hours of renewable energy

ADVANCES
the objectives of Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards, which reduce the state's reliance on fossil fuels

CONTRIBUTES MILLIONS
to Baltimore City's budget, offsetting
$100M taxpayers would otherwise need to shoulder to expand landfills and haul waste to other states

WHY WASTE-TO-ENERGY?

CONVERTING BALTIMORE'S TRASH HELPS MARYLAND THRIVE

Maryland households and businesses are producing millions of tons of waste each year. Every day, the WIN Waste Innovations waste-to-energy facility in Baltimore converts approximately 2,250 tons of the city's residential and commercial waste into renewable energy through a highly efficient combustion process that meets strict state and federal standards.

By recovering the renewable energy from Baltimore's waste, WIN Waste diverts all those tons of waste from landfills, where they would otherwise decompose, releasing methane, a greenhouse gas that has a global warming potential more than 80 times that of carbon dioxide in its first 20 years. Diverting waste from landfills and converting it into a renewable resource eliminates vast amounts of future greenhouse gas emissions.

RECOVERS AND RECYCLES
1 TON

=

UP TO 1.3 TONS

12K+ tons of metals from the waste stream

INVESTS $750K
in Baltimore to clean, green, train, and support the city

SUPPORTS 80 FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES
with living wages — hourly compensation starts at $22/hour and averages $36/ hour — and contributes $9 million in payroll tax revenue

OF WASTE PROCESSED AT WIN WASTE FACILITY
OF CO_2e EMISSIONS AVOIDED

REDUCING TRAFFIC-RELATED AIR POLLUTION

By processing Baltimore's waste, WIN Waste also helps eliminate thousands of tractor trailer trips to and from landfills, which reduces traffic-related air pollution,
or TRAP, which is the leading cause of air pollution affecting those living in urban areas.

"Waste-to-energy is the better alternative to landfilling for managing MSW that is not recyclable, a reality explicitly recognized by the waste management hierarchy recommended by both the U.S. [EPA] and the European Union."

— Marco J. Castaldi, Ph.D.
"The Scientific Truth About Waste-to-Energy"

WIN WASTE HELPS ADVANCE MARYLAND'S RPS OBJECTIVES

WIN Waste is helping Maryland achieve its Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards and greenhouse gas emissions goals by safely and efficiently converting everyday waste into renewable energy.

On average, WIN Waste Baltimore annually converts 700,000 tons of waste into nearly 400,000 megawatt hours of renewable energy.

That's enough to:

Offset 648K barrels of oil
needed to create the equivalent amount of energy

Power the equivalent of 31K+ homes
with energy converted from waste

Eliminate thousands
of tractor trailer trips to and from landfills

RECOVERING ENERGY FROM WASTE REDUCES FOSSIL FUEL USE

Waste-to-energy is one of the few renewable energy sources generated primarily within Maryland.

According to the 2022 RPS Annual Report, the majority of Maryland's RPS obligations were satisfied through the purchase and retirement of renewable energy credits (RECs). Only 19 percent of RECs used for compliance in 2021 came from in-state sources, with waste-to-energy representing most of that portion.

WIN WASTE COMPLETES $45 MILLION INVESTMENT IN AIR QUALITY CONTROL UPGRADES

WIN Waste Innovations has completed upgrades to air quality control systems at its waste-to-energy plant in Baltimore. The $45 million dollar investment helps
ensure the plant is one of the lowest-emitting waste-to- energy facilities in the world.

Work on the upgrade began in 2022 and was completed in July 2023. The upgrade includes installation of state-of-the-art equipment and technology that will help WIN Waste keep the plant's emissions well below even the strictest regulations.

"Our emissions levels are already consistently well below U.S. EPA and the even stricter State of Maryland regulations, but in working with city officials, we were asked to do even better. We're proud to confirm we have done just that," says Travis Satiritz, Corporate Maintenance Account Manager at WIN Waste Baltimore.

"We are excited to be at the forefront of waste-to- energy technology," Satiritz says. "Our ongoing investment in air quality means WIN Waste Baltimore will continue to safeguard public and environmental health, while sustainably managing the city's growing amount of waste."

HOW WE SUPPORT THE CITY WE LOVE

WIN Waste Innovations invests nearly $750,000 in vital Baltimore-based nonprofit organizations each year. These groups share our dedication to making the city and state better places to live and work. Together with our partners, WIN Waste has helped provide youth workforce training, expand urban gardens, remove tons of illegally dumped trash from neighborhoods, and created scores of new green spaces citywide, among many other initiatives.

WIN Waste supports local waste reduction initiatives, including those of the nonprofit 4MyCity. Using WIN Waste's $50,000 contribution, 4MyCity supplies thousands of low-income families in Baltimore City with biodegradable bags so they can easily compost their food scraps. The compost generated enriches the soil of community gardens throughout the city.

WIN Waste employs local landscaping firm Division Street to build and maintain urban gardens throughout the city of Baltimore.

WIN Waste employees work shoulder to shoulder with thousands of residents across the city to remove more than 2 million pounds of illegally dumped trash and street litter.

52 WEEKS, 100+ CLEANUPS

WIN WASTE HIRES RETURNING CITIZENS TO HELP MAKE THE CITY SHINE

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Health Tech Alley Challenge2Change

We Our Us

Reaching Innocent Children Hearts

My Father's Plan

(R.I.C.H) Foundation

Action Baybrook

The National Institute of Health's CEAL DMV

Urban Oasis

4MyCiTy

City of Refuge Victory Garden

Pass It On

Arch Social Community Network

University of Maryland Medical Center's Office of Community Engagement and Workforce Development

Ark Church

Baltimore Brothers Inc

Friends of Garrett Park

YSL - Young Successful Leaders

S.O.N.S of Phoenix

Pleasant Beginnings

Rosemont Neighborhood Improvement Association

Tendea Family

Mount Clare Community Council

Hollins Roundhouse Association

Grow Home

Madeira Street Garden

People first: *The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) designates "Star" sites through its Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). WIN Waste Baltimore is an OSHA-designated "Star" worksite. It is the highest safety rating OSHA bestows, and fewer than one percent of worksites in the United States achieve the designation.*

ABOUT WIN WASTE INNOVATIONS

WIN Waste Innovations is a waste management company committed to delivering essential solutions to customers and communities.

Its 2,200-strong team operates a platform of 53 strategically located collection, transfer, and disposal assets, including include waste-to-energy facilities, transfer stations, ash monofills, and landfills, as well

WtE Facilities (Disposal/Energy) (14) Ash Monofills (4)
Landfills (3)

Transfer Stations (20)

Material Recovery Facility (2) Hauling Locations (10)

FL

as fleets of rail cars and collection vehicles, including electric trash trucks. WIN Waste embeds sustainability into every step of the waste handling process — from curbside pickup to the transfer of renewable energy onto the electric grid. By recovering and recycling reusable materials and transforming waste into renewable energy — offsetting the need for fossil fuel — WIN Waste plays a critical role in the sustainability of our planet.

HB166 - WIN Waste - UNF Testimony .pdf
Uploaded by: Caitlin McDonough
Position: UNF

TO: The Honorable C.T. Wilson , Chair

Members, House Economic Matetrs Committee

The Honorable Vaughn Stewart

FROM: Mary Urban

Michael Dougherty

DATE: March 7, 2024

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Bill 166 – *Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources – Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)*

On behalf of WIN Waste Innovations and our Baltimore facility (WIN Waste), we submit this letter of **opposition** to House Bill 166 because it removes waste-to-energy as a Tier 1 renewable energy source from the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS). Such a change would have a significant negative impact on WIN Waste, our customers such as the City of Baltimore and Baltimore County, and the State's ability to reach its own goals relating to, greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction, and investment in renewable energy and in-state energy generation.

WIN Waste is an integral part of Maryland's energy, environmental, and economic infrastructure, providing sustainable waste management for the City of Baltimore and Baltimore County. Every day, we divert waste from landfills to annually convert nearly 700,000 tons of post-recycled waste from area homes and businesses into 400,000 megawatt hours of clean, renewable baseload electricity – enough to power ~31,000 Maryland homes, while reducing landfilling, lowering GHG, recycling ~12,000 tons of metals that would also otherwise be landfilled and offsetting the need for nearly 650,000 barrels of oil.

During the summer of 2023, WIN Waste completed more than $45 million in upgrades to its Baltimore WTE facility, ensuring its emissions are among the lowest of any such facility in the world. The company will continue to aggressively invest in maintenance for all areas of the facility to ensure its continued high reliability, safety, and efficiency well into the future. WIN Waste will also continue to invest in new technologies and equipment to ensure the facility operates within strict state and federal guidelines designed to protect the environment and public health. **Moreover, the company will continue to invest nearly $1 million annually to Baltimore City community and environmental initiatives.**

Energy-from-waste reduces GHG by approximately 1.3 tons for every ton of waste processed. In addition, WIN Waste generates "green steam" for downtown Baltimore's heating and cooling

system, which services 255 businesses, including the M&T Bank Stadium, home of the Baltimore Ravens. It is essential that the committee take a holistic look at the objectives of the RPS and the broad and ongoing role of WTE, which results in a net reduction of GHG in multiple ways and incentivizes in-state, non-fossil fuel generation.

WTE is one of the few renewable energy sources primarily generated in Maryland. According to the 2022 RPS Annual Report, the majority of Maryland's RPS obligations were met through the purchase and retirement of renewable energy credits (RECs). Only 19 percent of the RECs used for compliance in 2021 came from in-state sources, with WTE representing most of that portion.

Energy-from-waste has been endorsed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as the preferred method to landfilling for waste disposal. In fact, it's embraced by the European Environmental Agency, the Center for American Progress, the World Economic Forum, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism, and the United Nations Environment Programme, among many others. More than 30 states recognize waste to energy as renewable energy.

Moreover, Baltimore City's 2020 "Less Waste, Better Baltimore" Master Plan recommends continued utilization of energy-from-waste because the alternative of long-haul trucking is "a cost- prohibitive and environmentally degrading option." In fact, the master plan and other analyses have estimated eliminating WTE from the local waste management process would cost taxpayers as much as $100 million over several years. That amount would include expanding local landfill capacity and building truck and rail transfer stations to transport an increased volume of waste to out-of-state disposal sites.

In its December 2017 report, the Environmental Integrity Project, funded by the Abell Foundation, reported that "on-road vehicles are the largest contributor to the air pollution that people breathe in Baltimore...because vehicle tailpipes...do not disperse pollution as widely as taller smokestacks." They also reported that "there is not a significant association between city zip codes with the highest emissions of criteria pollutants from stationary facilities and the zip codes with the highest asthma rates."

As Maryland waste volumes continue to increase, jurisdictions are already hauling waste to out-of-state landfills using tractor trailers. This additional tractor-trailer traffic, which increases air pollution and fossil-fuel usage, will continue to grow if less waste is safely and responsibly managed locally. According to the Maryland Department of the Environment, nearly 14 million tons of waste was generated in Maryland counties and the City of Baltimore during calendar year 2021, up 19.3 percent from the roughly 11.6 million tons generated in calendar year 2020. WTE plays an essential role in reducing the volume of waste filling local landfills and being trucked to distant disposal sites.

A 2020 study by the Abell Foundation confirms that social determinants of health are a primary driver of asthma in Baltimore City. It found, "The link between environmental exposures and asthma symptom burden is clear: Children are more likely to experience asthma exacerbations if they live in areas with high rates of housing code violations or if they are exposed to high levels

of allergens or environmental triggers in the home. Research indicates that more than 84% of homes of children with asthma in Baltimore City contain detectable levels of mouse allergens in bedroom dust and air samples."

As reflected in the December 2019 Report of the Maryland Power Plant Research Program, Figure ES-11, WIN Waste's Baltimore facility is an important economic engine to the region – providing jobs, economic stimulus in the form of capital investments and the purchase of goods and services, local property taxes, and we remain actively engaged in a series of community, environmental and economic initiatives spending tens of millions in the region annually.

As you consider House Bill 166, we hope you will recognize the tremendous environmental and economic benefits WIN Waste provides to Maryland. The elimination of energy-from-waste as a Tier 1 renewable energy source will adversely affect the continued viability of WIN Waste, but also Maryland's ability to meet its high RPS goals. Renewable energy credits help the facility continue to provide affordable and dependable disposal services to the City and the County, while promoting and supporting recycling, diverting waste from landfills, and reducing GHG. We urge the House Economic Matters Committee to give House Bill 166 an unfavorable report.

Testimony HB166 W2E 2024.pdf
Uploaded by: David Pendleton
Position: UNF

LARRY KASECAMP
Legislative Director

DAVID PENDLETON SR
Assistant Director

TOM CAHILL
Secretary

MAIN OFICE
11505 Caboose Road SW
Suite 1A
Frostburg, MD 21532-3712

ANNAPOLIS OFFICE
176 Conduit Street
Suite 206
Annapolis, MD 21401-2597

PH: 301-697-2695
utusldmd@gmail.com

March 5, 2024

The Honorable Chairman C.T. Wilson, Vice Chair Brian Crosby,
and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee

RE: HB166 – OPPOSE

As Assistant State Legislative Director for the Transportation Division of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Worker's I am urging your committee to deliver an unfavorable report on SB146, " *Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024).*"

Our members are employed by CSX in providing rail service to Covanta, the waste-to-energy facility in Montgomery County. We understand there are hundreds of other union and non-union workers employed in the operations of this and other waste-to-energy facilities throughout the state. We believe these jobs are at risk if this legislation to eliminate waste-to-energy from Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) is passed into law.

We have been in opposition to the attempts of eliminating biomass from the RPS for several years. When testifying on the legislation, we always proclaim that the jobs associated with the industries that would be affected by that legislation were at risk. The supporters of the legislation always take the position that the jobs are not at risk as these industries will continue to operate afterward, even though they would like to see them close.

Of course, no one can predict the future, but one must look no farther than what happened to the Verso Paper Mill that was in Allegany County, Maryland. After being constantly attacked year after year by legislation to eliminate their ability to receive credits under the RPS for generating electricity for their own operation, this wayed heavily in their decision to close the plant and move production to other facilities in other states where they were not under constant attack.

The result was the loss of over 800 direct union jobs in the plant that paid excellent wages and had great health care and pension benefits. All told, over 3000 jobs were lost when considering the ancillary jobs associated with the production facility. This has been a severe blow to the economy of Allegany County.

We understand renewable energy policies are important and are related to addressing climate change. But sometimes the goals of these legislative efforts result in unintended consequences. Closing of the Verso Paper Mill is an example. The lateral movement of the production line did not result in less making or use of biomass, nor did it lessen the amount of exhaust into the air. It just took place in another state who benefited from the increase in jobs.

In addition, it was reported that part of the production line equipment was sold to a company in Poland for their use in their production of paper. The demand for the product does not go away just because the plant closes. I would venture to say that Poland does not have the same air quality standards as Maryland, which then results in the opposite affect desired.

Until the state takes responsibility for the jobs they are responsible for eliminating with their policies, we cannot support legislation such as HB166. These facilities and the jobs associated with their processes are middle class family sustaining jobs that pay good wages and benefits that cannot be replaced easily, if at all. Moreover, they provide economic benefits for communities through suppliers, service providers, educational resources, and tax payments.

We therefore urge your committee to give HB166 an unfavorable report!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David P. Pendleton Sr.
Assistant MD State Legislative Director
SMART Transportation Division

HB 166 Blaylock Testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Frazier Blaylock
Position: UNF

COVANTA
Powering Today. Protecting Tomorrow.

Frazier Blaylock

Senior Director

Government Relations

Covanta

4960 Fairmont Avenue #605

Bethesda, MD 20814

Testimony by Frazier Blaylock
Before the House Economic Matters Committee
In Opposition to HB 166
March 7, 2024

Good afternoon, my name is Frazier Blaylock and I work for Covanta Energy, which has provided reliable, cost-effective materials management and the generation of clean, renewable energy for Montgomery County since 1995. We operate the County's waste transfer station at Shady Grove and the waste-to-energy facility that the County owns in Dickerson.

I am here today to express our opposition to HB 166, which would remove waste-to-energy (WTE) from Tier 1 of Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). The elimination of waste-to-energy as a Tier 1 renewable source would ignore the many benefits this facility brings to our communities and treat it unfairly in the very competitive energy and disposal markets.

WTE is a clean, local, efficient, and economical form of renewable baseload energy production and post-recycled waste disposal that helps Maryland divert waste from landfills while producing energy to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. The Montgomery plant generates enough electricity to power 30,000 homes for a year, or power 75,000 electric cars for a year. These plants can be located close to population centers where trash is generated, and thus avoid the long-haul truck traffic associated with most landfill sites.

Montgomery County sets a sustainable example for other Counties in Maryland by taking care of our own trash. We do not export our municipal solid waste to other states' landfills, but rail it from Shady Grove out to Dickerson avoiding hundreds of trash trucks from traveling our highways. Our neighbors in Frederick County, for example, transport 96% of their

waste by trailer trucks to a private landfill in Chambersburg, PA. This is according to the County's own website.

The process of converting waste into energy is a key part of an integrated materials management plan that focuses on waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and recovery of energy.

The revenues, employment, and labor earnings derived from managing waste, producing energy, and recycling metals are the direct economic benefits of WTE.[1] Employees at WTE plants are technically skilled and are compensated at a high average wage. WTE facilities provide stable, long-term, well-paying jobs, while simultaneously infusing dollars into local economies through the purchase of local goods and services.

A study of WTE technologies by the Joint Institute for Strategic Energy Analysis for the U.S. Department of Energy concluded that WTE is a "refined, clean, well-managed application for energy production."[2] WTE meets the two basic criteria for establishing what a renewable energy resource is—its fuel source (trash) is *sustainable* and *indigenous*. WTE facilities recover valuable energy from trash after efforts to "reduce, reuse, and recycle" have been implemented by households and local governments.

The facilities we operate are internationally recognized as GHG mitigation tools, even after accounting for our stack emissions of fossil-based CO2. The IPCC called waste-to-energy a "key GHG mitigation measure." This is done by diverting degradable organics from landfills, the 3rd largest source of methane globally and in the United States, displacing grid connected fossil-fuel fired electrical generation, and recovering metals for recycling. Alongside recycling, WTE has been a cornerstone of Europe's efforts to reduce GHG emissions from the waste management sector.

Our GHG benefits relative to landfilling have been recognized by California's air and waste regulatory agencies, U.S. EPA scientists, Columbia University's Earth Engineering Center, U.S. EPA, the Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan, the World Economic Forum, and the

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[2] Joint Institute for Strategic Energy Analysis. 2013. Waste Not, Want Not: Analyzing the Economic and Environmental Viability of Waste-to-Energy (WTE) Technology for Site-Specific Optimization of Renewable Energy Options. Technical Report NREL/TP-6A50-52829.

Joint Institute for Strategic Energy Analysis ("NREL"). EPA scientists, in a prominent peer reviewed paper, concluded WTE facilities reduce GHG emissions relative to even those landfills equipped with energy recovery systems.[3] EfW facilities generate carbon offsets credits under both the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol and voluntary carbon offset markets.[i,ii] The Montgomery facility avoids 442,000 metric tons of GHGs each year, which is equivalent to removing 109,000 vehicles for 1 year or displacing 546 million pounds of coal.

The benefits of diverting waste away from landfills to recycling and energy recovery are clearer than ever. Across a series of recent studies employing direct measurement of methane plumes via aircraft downwind of landfills, actual measured emissions from landfills have averaged twice the amount reported in GHG inventories, including Maryland's.

Furthermore, Maryland's inventory downplays methane's role in the climate, using an outdated methane GWP. Today, scientists recognize methane as a potent short-lived climate pollutant that is more than 30 times stronger than CO_2 over 100 years, and 84 times stronger over 20 years, when all of its impacts are considered.[iii] States currently leading on climate, like New York and California, have adopted methane's 20-year GWP in planning and legislation.

Finally, to remove WTE from Tier one and yet leave landfill gas in Tier 1 is counter to the US and EU waste hierarchies and counter to Maryland's goal of reducing the GHG's that contribute to climate change.

For the reasons stated in this testimony, Covanta strongly opposes HB 166. Thank you for your consideration of these remarks.

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[i] Clean Development Mechanism: *Large-Scale Consolidated Methodology: Alternative waste treatment processes, ACM0022*. Available at: https://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/PAmethodologies/approved

[ii] Verified Carbon Standard Project Database, http://www.vcsprojectdatabase.org/ See Project ID 290, Lee County Waste to Energy Facility 2007 Capital Expansion Project VCU, and Project ID 1036 Hillsborough County Waste to Energy (WtE) Facility 2009 Capital Expansion Unit 4.

[iii] The IPCC concluded that "it is likely that including the climate-carbon feedback for non-CO_2 gases as well as for CO_2 provides a better estimate of the metric value than including it only for CO_2." See p714 & Table 8-7 of Myhre, G. *et al.* (2013)

Anthropogenic and Natural Radiative Forcing. In: Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Stocker, T.F., *et al.* (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA. https://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/wg1/WG1AR5_Chapter08_FINAL.pdf

HB0166_UNF_NWRA_RPS - Eligible Sources - Alteratio

Uploaded by: Pam Kasemeyer

Position: UNF

wasterecycling.org

Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association
a chapter of the
National Waste & Recycling Association℠
Collect. Recycle. Innovate.

TO: The Honorable C.T. Wilson, Chair
Members, House Economic Matters Committee
The Honorable Vaughn Stewart

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Andrew G. Vetter

DATE: March 7, 2024

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Bill 166 – *Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources – Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)*

The Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association (MDSWA), a chapter of the National Waste and Recycling Association, is a trade association representing the private solid waste industry in the State of Maryland. Its membership includes hauling and collection companies, processing and recycling facilities, transfer stations, and disposal facilities. MDSWA and its members **oppose** House Bill 166, which seeks to remove waste-to-energy and refuse-derived fuel as Tier 1 sources in Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard.

Waste-to-energy is not only a renewable source of energy, but also regarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a reliable and responsible method of waste disposal, and is subject to stringent state and federal air, water, and solid waste regulations. As the Association representing the entire private solid waste industry, we are deeply concerned about how this bill will affect the waste-to-energy facilities in the State of Maryland and the jurisdictions that rely on them for management of their solid waste. For example, WIN Waste Innovations, formerly Wheelabrator Technologies, operates a waste-to-energy facility servicing the City of Baltimore, Baltimore County, and numerous commercial clients. It processes up to 2,250 tons of post-recycled waste each day, resulting in 400,000 megawatts of clean electricity, while also providing steam for downtown Baltimore's heating and cooling system.

The Maryland Department of Environment data shows that Maryland waste generation is increasing, not decreasing. Baltimore County just announced the expansion of its landfill. Removing waste-to-energy would be a step backward toward increasing the availability of renewable energy in Maryland and would negatively impact the jurisdictions for which waste-to-energy is a critical component of their solid waste management infrastructure. As such, an unfavorable report is requested.

For more information:
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Andrew G. Vetter
410-244-7000