



Testimony in SUPPORT of SB0146
Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations
(Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Gabriela Roque, On Behalf of CASA

January 25 2024

Dear Honorable Chair Wilson and Members of the Committee,

CASA is pleased to offer **favorable testimony in support of SB0146 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)**. CASA is a member-based grassroots advocacy organization giving voice to working-class immigrants and families in Maryland. We are here today because we are committed to achieving a just and equitable energy transition for our members.

SB0146 is important legislation that will address the problematic inclusion of polluting power plants, like trash incineration, woody biomass and factory farm methane gas in the Maryland Renewable Energy Portfolio.

Members of this committee know the statistics of the dangerous levels of air pollution the most marginalized communities of our state are forced to live with and can reason how subsidizing these polluting power plants alongside truly low-emitting sources of energy will slow our progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating the worse outcomes of an increasingly hot and unstable climate.

So what I'd like to add to your consideration for this vote is the story of one person harmed by the air pollution currently being subsidized as the law is now. Sandra Lovo is a CASA leader whose son was born with pulmonary hypertension because of her exposure to air pollution in South Baltimore. The majority of that pollution comes from the Bresco trash incinerator alone.

CASA urges the members of this committee to put themselves in Sandra's shoes and vote as if it were your little one who's tiny lungs were damaged and struggled to take in air, who's first month of life depended on a breathing tube, and who from that moment on needed to take medication daily to avoid an asthma attack.

CASA urges a favorable report for SB0146 because any energy source that comes at the expense of a child's ability to breathe, like Sandra Lovo's son, is not a sustainable energy source that should receive investment and profit from Maryland taxpayers. Thank you.

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