

**Testimony in Support of The Reclaim Renewables Act
SB0146
Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
1/25/24**

**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 SB0146.

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 wasting ratepayer dollars on facilities that do not need and don't deserve them, and reinvesting those valuable dollars into truly clean, renewable sources that benefit Marylanders.

Respectfully,
Jamie DeMarco

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