



Democratic Socialists of America

Montgomery County, Maryland

Testimony Supporting SB146: Reclaim Renewable Energy Act
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
January 25, 2023

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

As chair of Montgomery County DSA, I am writing to express our organization's strong support of SB146, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

Montgomery County DSA has over 500 due-paying members and supporters in the county, with our membership ranging from high school students to retirees, all dedicated to furthering social and economic justice in our county.

We believe that our state urgently needs to take action on climate change. We envision a future for our county and state of energy democracy, a future in which residents and ratepayers have a say in where their energy comes from, a future in which truly renewable sources are abundant, a future with clean air, clean water, and healthy neighborhoods. Yet as we actively work toward that future, floods, fires, droughts, unseasonably warm winters have become all too commonplace. Maryland lawmakers must act now with the urgency the climate crisis demands, even in challenging budget environments, as stewards of our funds and of the earth at once.

The current Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS), however well-intentioned, has resulted in more than \$20 million in annual public subsidies to facilities that together emit nearly 3 million tons of CO₂ per year, the equivalent of more than 500,000 additional cars on the road. This arrangement, while profitable for a small number of companies, is a budgetary and climate disaster. The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act will finally solve this issue by altering the RPS standard to exclude these companies.

Passing the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act is a necessary step toward responsible spending and action on climate. We urge a favorable report.