

Testimony Supporting SB146

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

January 25, 2024

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

I am a resident of the 41st District and a Maryland electricity ratepayer. As a mother of 2, I am concerned about climate change and its effects on current and future children. I am writing to express my strong support of SB146, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

In 2020, about 25 percent of Maryland's "clean" energy came from dirty sources. Meeting Governor Wes Moore's goal of 100 percent clean energy by 2035 will require elimination of these dirty fuels from the state's renewable portfolio standard (RPS). The RPS is an important tool to support clean, renewable energy development and decrease greenhouse emissions from the electricity sector.

Passing the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act will not cost any money out of the state budget, and will better prioritize the money we already spend.

Maryland is wasting an increasing amount of money subsidizing trash incineration categorizing it as renewable energy. 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. This is an incredible windfall for the incinerators, and bad for Marylanders. We can't afford to keep wasting increasing amounts of money profiting something that's not putting renewable energy on the electricity grid.

The RPS subsidy is paid by electric utilities, and ultimately comes out of our utility bills. We deserve to know that when we are paying for renewable energy, we're actually helping support the renewable energy we need to fight climate change and clean our air.

Thank you very much for hearing my concerns and supporting this important bill.

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