

Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association
a chapter of the



TO: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Members, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
The Honorable Karen Lewis Young

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

DATE: January 25, 2024

RE: **OPPOSE** – Senate Bill 146 – *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** Senate Bill 146, 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:

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