



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

Senate Bill 146

Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources – Alterations
(Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)

Date: January 25, 2024	Position: Favorable
To: Education, Energy and the Environment Committee	From: Doug Myers Maryland Senior Scientist

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** SB 146, which removes waste-to-energy incineration as a Tier 1 source of renewable energy.

Chesapeake Bay Program studies have determined that one-third of the nitrogen pollution that ends up in the water comes from [air pollution](#). Waste-to-energy incineration facilities emit tons of nitrogen oxides from their stacks each year: this air pollution is carried to the Bay and its tributaries as soon as it rains. Negative health outcomes from exposure to particulate matter and other air pollutants are well documented, and shown to disproportionately affect low-income communities, for example the Curtis Bay community in Baltimore City.

While we understand that, from an economic standpoint, it may be difficult for local governments to end their relationships with facilities like the Wheelabrator in Baltimore City, it does not make sense for the State to continue to subsidize incinerator facilities through the renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS). The contributions to both air and water pollution of waste-to-energy incinerators are contrary to the spirit of the RPS program, negatively affecting the Bay and Marylanders.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on SB 146.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

Maryland Office • Philip Merrill Environmental Center • 6 Herndon Avenue • Annapolis • Maryland • 21403

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.