



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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**SB 146 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations
(Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
January 24, 2024**

OPPOSE

**Donna S. Edwards
President
Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to SB 146. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 300,000 union members in the state of Maryland, I offer the following comments.

Waste-to-Energy (WTE) facilities around Maryland employ hundreds of workers directly and support hundreds more through transportation, facility maintenance, and secondary and tertiary support industries and businesses. The workers at the plants enjoy family-sustaining wages with benefits, which, oftentimes, do not exist in the communities in which they are located.

SB 146 removes waste-to-energy and refuse-derived fuel from Tier 1 of the Renewable energy Portfolio Standard. A clean and sustainable energy future depends on a robust RPS, which includes these sources of energy. Without them, we cannot meet our renewable energy needs, and would need to dispose of the waste in another fashion. Waste would still be a pollution issue, leading to the State continuing to intervene on proper disposal. We would not realize the energy benefits of WTE facilities nor the well compensated jobs they create and support, yet we would be saddled, as taxpayers, with the additional costs of the remediation of pollution.

We urge an unfavorable on SB 146.