



**Testimony Supporting SB146
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
January 25, 2024**

Position: SUPPORT

Good Afternoon to the committee members.

My name is Carlos Sanchez-Gonzalez, I am a resident of Baltimore City and part of a grassroots, community based nonprofit organization called the South Baltimore Community Land trust.

I would like to thank you all for hearing this bill and hearing testimonies from us today! I will start off by saying Baltimore, and Maryland ratepayers at large, have been wasting so much money investing in non renewable “trash” incineration as an energy source under the current RPS, subsidizing what is clearly not an efficient or renewable way to get energy. So, we are proud that Baltimore City has really acknowledged how nonsensical the RPS classifying trash incineration as renewable energy is, and we are here to further state how we should NOT be using our REC's in that way. We at the Land Trust have been working for many years to move Baltimore to a healthier future, building a future where we can receive our energy from truly renewable sources like wind, solar power, and geothermal. But, this renewable energy shift has been inhibited by the increasing money that has been going to the BRESCO/Win Waste incinerator and two other non renewable incineration facilities in Maryland and Virginia, to the tune of \$51 million from 2020-2022 alone as the Virginia facility receives the most money. As Maryland ratepayers, we are especially frustrated by how our money profits these non renewable, climate polluting facilities that are further harmful to human health in comparison to Solar, Wind and Geothermal. As we continue building our sustainable communities in South Baltimore, we hope our ratepayer funds invest in fundamentally renewable energy sources instead of irrationally subsidizing trash incineration. That is why we are here today in support of Bill SB146 to take trash incineration out of the RPS to help give truly, clean renewable energy sources a leg up as the RPS was created to do.

We have as a group started a sign on letter for District 46 Community organization, groups, and associations, since the BRESCO incinerator is located in our district, District 46. It has a clear message and I quote from the sign on letter, “The message from Baltimore is clear: it's time for Maryland to stop subsidizing polluters like BRESCO, and use that money to support real renewable energy instead. Senate President Ferguson, we hope that you and the entire City

delegation will lead on finally fixing this environmental injustice.” This letter has 12 groups along with South Baltimore 7 (who represents 7 groups and communities), who is also the group that submitted this letter in their written testimony.

So, thank you for listening to my testimony and we are urging you to do the right thing and pass SB146 because it's what Residents,Groups/Organizations, and Baltimore City administration need the state to do! We need yall to help restore the RPS to its original purpose of funding real and clean renewable energy. Thank you!

Sincerely,
South Baltimore Community Land Trust