



PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND

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Testimony on Maryland Senate Bill 146 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the committee

FROM: SirJames, Environmental Justice Organizer

DATE: January 25, 2024

POSITION: Favorable

With gratitude, I appreciate the opportunity to voice my opinion on the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024 (SB146). Why are Marylanders, especially poor black communities in South Baltimore, helping to maintain the wealth of fools-gold like renewable energy such as trash incineration? In 2004, our state's Renewable Portfolio System was set up to support a diverse array of renewable energy sources and to meet our state's renewable energy goals. Trash incineration isn't clean and is further thwarting our global fight to address climate change.

As an Environmental Justice Organizer, on behalf Progressive Maryland, back on November 16, I held a public forum at Enoch Pratt Library Brooklyn Branch in South Baltimore, and heard several South Baltimore community members share soul-jerking testimonies about their monthly utility bills supporting the wealth of a toxic trash incinerator, which has caused high rates of asthma. Senator Ferguson's office was also in attendance and heard loud and clear that the time of feeding our community fools-gold renewable needs to end.

More recently, concerning our state's budget, in a recent January 16 Baltimore Banner article Senate President Ferguson states " passing the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (RREA) will not cost any money out of the state budget, and will better prioritize the money we already spend." It seems quite clear that it's time that we support genuine forms of renewable energy, such as solar, wind, and geothermal power. In addition, Governor Wes Moore's clean energy agenda for our state will be shaped by the recommendations of the Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, and the Maryland Commission on Climate Change recommends removal of incineration. It's time to end the iniquitous activity of misleading frontline community members with fools-good like renewable energy and pass the RREA to support true forms of green energy like solar, wind, and geothermal power. This will put us on a path to reduce our carbon footprint and eclipse the global climate crisis.

For these reasons, **we respectfully urge a favorable report on SB146.**

Respectfully, SirJames Weaver

**Progressive Maryland
Environmental Justice Organizer**

References

1. <https://www.thebaltimorebanner.com/politics-power/state-government/wes-moore-budget-preview-JQUUMYNOQZDIVNP6QXMSDHQXWI/>

2. <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/ClimateChange/Pages/Maryland%27s-Climate-Pollution-Reduction-Plan.aspx>