

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

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

As a resident of district 43A and a political science educator, I am writing to express my strong support of SB146, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act. Being tasked with teaching people about our governing institutions means trying to make sense of how decisions are made at the local and state levels in order to fight political apathy and encourage participation in governance. Unfortunately it also means being frequently disappointed in the glaring disparity in responsiveness of elected officials to business interests and the communities they are supposed to represent. I hope I'll be able to say that is not the case in this situation. There are several clear reasons why waste-to-energy incineration should not be included in Maryland's renewables portfolio despite what operators may claim. Incinerators do not produce "clean energy," and the RPS is fundamentally a tool for supporting the production of clean energy. Maryland officials have espoused a commitment to combatting climate change in the Climate Pollution Reduction Act, and if we hope to meet any of the goals outlined we need to make sure that our limited funds are being used intelligently. This bill will direct funds where they should be going, and stop Maryland from wasting millions every year on dirty energy.

Thank you, in advance, for doing the right thing.

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