

Testimony in Support of HB0220

Economic Matters Committee

Submitted, 2/18/25

To All Committee Members,

My name is Ray Earnest; I live on Maryland's Eastern Shore, and I urge a favorable report on HB0220.

This Bill will help Maryland meet its greenhouse gas reduction goals and cost the state nothing. In 2004 the Maryland legislature established the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to capture the environmental and economic benefits of renewable energy. The RPS requires electricity suppliers to subsidize renewable energy at increasing levels over time, and the suppliers prove their compliance through the purchase of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) from energy facilities that Maryland defines as "renewable." Unfortunately, the program allows some polluting industries like trash incineration to count as "renewable," diverting the subsidies represented by purchase of RECs away from the real renewable energy. This of course works to the advantage of polluting companies and to the disadvantage of the environment. The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act will eliminate trash incineration from the Renewable Portfolio Standard, ending a longtime environmental injustice and making more money available to support the real renewable energy we actually need to fight the climate crisis.

I support this bill because, if Maryland is to meet the goals set out in the EmPower program and do its part to stave off the worst effects of climate change, this bill is a "must do."

Thank you for your consideration, and I look to this committee to give HB0220 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Ray Earnest

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