

Testimony Supporting HB220
House Economic Matters Committee
February 20, 2025

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Wilson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Carlos Sanchez, and I am a resident of Baltimore City as well as a member of the South Baltimore Community Land Trust, a grassroots, community-based nonprofit. I'm writing to express my strong support for HB220—a bill I've been advocating for since I was 13. Now at 20 years old, my continued efforts to support this legislation demonstrate just how important it is to me and my community in South Baltimore.

I live in Lakeland, less than two miles from the WIN Waste trash incinerator. My entire life, I've witnessed the health impacts this polluting facility has on my community. But today, I want to focus on how frustrating it is to know that, as a Maryland ratepayer, I am effectively subsidizing this facility to continue harming my health and our communities.

Baltimore and Maryland ratepayers have been wasting money on nonrenewable “trash” incineration—a process that is neither efficient nor renewable. [A 2023 study in *PLOS Climate*](#) found that incinerators emit more greenhouse gases per unit of electricity than any other power source. For years, my peers and I at the Land Trust have worked to move Baltimore toward a healthier future powered by truly renewable energy sources like wind and solar. Unfortunately, progress has been hindered by subsidies flowing to the WIN Waste incinerator and two other nonrenewable incineration facilities in Maryland and Virginia.

This isn't a solid waste or zero waste bill. It doesn't address waste management - we're doing that at the local level - or close the incinerators.. HB220 is purely an energy bill, to stop misleading Maryland ratepayers about where their money is going and restore the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to its original purpose: funding clean, renewable energy. As Maryland ratepayers, we deserve to know that when we're paying for renewable energy, it should be from clean sources like wind, solar, and geothermal —not facilities that pollute our air and harm our health.

Passing HB220 will ensure our utility payments truly support clean energy solutions that combat climate change and improve public health. Please stand with residents, groups, and organizations like mine by passing HB220 and restoring the integrity of the RPS.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Carlos Sanchez
The South Baltimore Community Land Trust