



Bill Title: HB0220 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025

Position: SUPPORT (FAV)

To: Honorable Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and the members of the Economic Matters Committee

From: Mary Randall, Community Member, on behalf of Progressive Maryland

Date: 02/18/2025

I'm Mary Randall, a lifetime resident of Westport in District 46, and I spoke before this committee last year defending **HB0220 the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (RREA) of 2025** on behalf of Progressive Maryland's Environmental Justice Task Force and spoke at the Senate Hearing on Thursday, February 13th.

I live in the neighborhood of Westport which unfortunately borders the BRESKO incinerator, also known as WIN Waste. As a result of this close proximity, my two best friends and many members of my community and neighborhood developed cancer and died as a result of breathing in the toxic fumes of the incinerator. I also developed cancer in my left kidney and was able to beat it, but I am still currently suffering from a chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) since I live next to BRESKO. It is clear that waste incineration is not a clean, renewable energy source given that it deteriorates my community's health.

Although Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard Program (RPS) was established in 2004 to promote renewable energy sources like solar, geothermal, and hydropower, I was shocked to learn that our former governor Martin O'Malley and lawmakers passed legislation in 2011 to allow incineration into the RPS. This demonstrates how incineration companies have been prioritized over community members like myself. With passage of the RREA, Maryland will be on par with other states in combating climate change and prioritizing community health. Incineration must be eliminated from the RPS as a precursor to Maryland's transition to 100% clean energy. Passage of the RREA will make more money available for investment in clean, renewable energy sources such as solar, geothermal, and wind turbine power.

I want my monthly energy bill to finance these clean sources of energy instead of polluting sources of energy like trash incineration which release highly toxic pollutants into our environment and adversely impact my health. The time has come to liberate the people of South Baltimore from financing a highly toxic, non-green incinerator like BRESKO and I know I can count on my legislators to do so. Senate President Bill Ferguson, who is also my representative, is a co-sponsor of the RREA. It is evident that this will be the year that the paradigm shift my community and representatives desire comes into fruition through the passage of the RREA. I wholeheartedly endorse this legislation and sincerely thank you all for your time.

Thank you,

