



**Committee:** Economic Matters  
**Testimony on:** HB0220 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)  
**Organization:** Climate Justice Wing of the Maryland Legislative Coalition  
**Submitting:** Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair  
**Position:** Favorable  
**Hearing Date:** February 20, 2024

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025 (HB220). The Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of nearly 30 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on HB220.

HB220 will clean up the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) by retaining subsidies for truly renewable energy sources and removing subsidies for a problematic dirty energy source, i.e., trash incineration. As Maryland moves aggressively toward meeting its ambitious greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals, we need to align all available incentives toward renewable sources of energy and stop incentivizing polluting sources like trash incineration.

Trash incineration was only added to Tier 1 of the RPS in 2011, making it part of the same subsidized category as wind and solar. Maryland needs to stop wasting money subsidizing trash incineration, especially considering that those subsidies from Maryland's RPS have grown from \$11.5 million in 2020 to \$24.3 million in 2023; i.e., a total of \$75.4 million in 4 years. Just think where we would be if these funds had gone to truly renewable energy sources – we would be closer to meeting our GHG reduction goals.

The Maryland Commission on Climate Change and Governor Moore agree. The Governor's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, released in December 2023, included recommendations to remove trash incineration from the RPS. We must put our money where our mouth is by focusing on truly renewable energy sources like wind and solar energy.

Finally, it is important to acknowledge that trash incineration is not "clean energy" and does not belong in the RPS. In 2015, the Baltimore incinerator emitted on average about twice as much GHG per unit energy produced as each of the coal plants located in Maryland. In addition, air pollution from waste incinerators increase the risk of pre-term births, cancers of the blood and lung, and emergency room visits. According to a Chesapeake Bay Foundation commissioned

study, fine particulate matter emitted from the Baltimore “waste-to-energy” facility causes over \$55 million in adverse health effects annually.

The Climate Justice Wing supports policies that benefit overburdened and underserved communities, which have historically sustained disproportionate environmental harm. The South Baltimore communities closest to the incinerator are truly overburdened by multiple pollution sources, including the incinerator. This polluting source of energy should not be receiving a renewable energy subsidy intended to promote the generation of clean and healthy renewable energy.

By removing trash incineration from the RPS, Maryland will better direct its subsidies to the truly renewable energy sources of the future. We strongly support HB220 and urge a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.

350MoCo

Adat Shalom Climate Action

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry

Chesapeake Earth Holders

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility

Climate Parents of Prince George's

Climate Reality Project

ClimateXChange – Rebuild Maryland Coalition

Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists

DoTheMostGood Montgomery County

Echotopia

Elders Climate Action

Fix Maryland Rail

Glen Echo Heights Mobilization

Greenbelt Climate Action Network

HoCoClimateAction

IndivisibleHoCoMD

Maryland Legislative Coalition

Mizrahi Family Charitable Fund

Mobilize Frederick

Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions

Montgomery Countryside Alliance

Mountain Maryland Movement

Nuclear Information & Resource Service

Progressive Maryland

Safe & Healthy Playing Fields

Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee

The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter

Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

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