

February 18, 2025

Testimony in Support of HB220, Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby and Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

As a resident concerned about climate change and an active volunteer in environmental protection efforts, I am submitting this testimony to express my strong support of HB220, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

Passing the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act will eliminate trash incineration from Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and make tens of millions of additional dollars per year available to support renewable energy at no cost to the state budget.

Maryland needs to stop wasting our renewable energy subsidies on trash incineration. Burning trash for energy pollutes more than burning coal. The state has wasted \$100 million subsidizing trash incinerators as "renewable" since 2012, and we could waste another \$200 million by 2030 if trash incineration remains in the RPS. With the state's current fiscal constraints and facing a climate crisis, that is a huge waste of Maryland's limited financial resources.

We should spend that money on the real renewable energy to fight climate change and make our air cleaner.

The RPS is an important tool to support clean, renewable energy development and decrease emissions from the electricity sector. Passing the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act will result in more money for renewable energy at no cost to the state budget. This legislation simply reallocates money we are already spending to increase funding for renewable energy.

I strongly urge a favorable vote on HB220.

Sincerely,

Tom Taylor
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