

## **Testimony to the House Economic Matters Committee**

**Submitted: 2/18/2025. Hearing Date: 2/20/2025.**

### **In Support of HB 220 – Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025**

My name is John McKusick and I reside in District 43 B (Delegate Cathi Forbes). I retired from a career in Student Support Services at the Community College of Baltimore County and Towson University spanning 31 years. I have been a volunteer for environmental causes for much of my adult life both while employed and in retirement.

This year I am part of the Climate & Environment advocacy team for Quaker Voice of Maryland and lead Quaker Voice advocacy to support the Maryland Bottle Bill. However, I am equally interested in passage of HB220, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025. Quite frankly I am mystified that we even need to pass legislation to specify that trash to energy systems should not be part of the list of renewable energy options. Burning trash simply is not clean energy. It is not good for the earth and the climate. It is not good for the budget and wastes a lot of money that could be used for developing more renewable energy. And there is a growing understanding that incinerating trash leads to increased amounts of lead and mercury in the air near the incinerator. The pollution is not safe for human exposure at any level.

Don't we need the \$25 M for better purposes than maintaining an incinerator? Please note that the proposed law does not prohibit the operation of an incinerator. It does discontinue the subsidy that the company has received in the last several years.

Quaker Voice of Maryland, a small but growing advocacy group that is engaging Quakers and other people with similar interests across the state, is pleased to designate HB 220 as one of four pieces of environmental legislation for which we are advocating. We are committed to both pragmatic and spiritual approaches to "seeking a world renewed" and value community and dialogue as pathways to bringing people together to care for the earth. Quakers believe and try to embody the idea that there is that of God in each person. As a result, we are optimistic problem solvers. Collectively and working together, we can succeed and, for the sake of the next generations, we must succeed.

On behalf of Quaker Voice on Maryland, I urge a favorable report from the Committee for HB 220. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,

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