



## **HB-0220 - SUPPORT**

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### **HB0220 –Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards – Eligible Sources Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025**

Economic Matters Committee  
January 20, 2025

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

My name is Sonia Demiray. I am the Executive Director of the Climate Communications Coalition, a member of the Mid-Atlantic Justice Coalition, and of the Maryland Climate Justice Wing. The Climate Communications Coalition strongly supports HB0220.

Declaring trash incineration “renewable energy” and dedicating subsidies to incinerators that should have gone towards solar, wind, or geothermal was and continues to be a grave mistake. The RPS is supposed to reduce our emissions, and eventually eliminate them. However, trash incineration only adds to the greenhouse gases and spews toxic carcinogens into overburdened communities. Now, after years of organizing and advocacy from communities fighting incinerators, Maryland is poised to fix this costly mistake by passing the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (HB0220). Please remove trash incineration from the Tier 1 Renewables once and for all.

Removing trash is a necessary first step but we must also prepare to remove woody biomass and biogas from the RPS. Biomass burning power plants emit [150% the CO2 of coal plants](#), and 300 – 400% the carbon dioxide (CO2) of gas plants per unit of energy produced (Partnership for Policy Integrity). Meanwhile, biogas is methane - same as regular gas- and 80 times more potent at trapping heat than CO2 [in the first 20 years](#) after its release. Once burned, it also releases CO2 which continues to accumulate in our atmosphere for thousands of years, dangerously altering our climate.

We need to clean up the RPS in its entirety and focus on truly clean energy: wind, solar, and geothermal. Let’s start with removing waste. We urge a favorable report for HB0220.

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