



## MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

Lowe House Office Building, 6 Bladen Street, Room 200 · Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
Phone 410-841-3374 | 301-858-3374 · 800-492-7122 Ext. 3374 · Fax 410-841-3342 | 301-858-3342  
latino.caucus@house.state.md.us · www.mdlatinocaucus.org

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TO: Delegate C.T. Wilson, Chair  
Delegate Brian M. Crosby, Vice Chair  
Economic Matters Committee Members  
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus  
DATE: February 20, 2025  
RE: HB220 – Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources – Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)

### **The MLLC supports HB220 – Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources – Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)**

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB220

Many waste-to-energy facilities and incinerators are located in or near low-income and immigrant neighborhoods, where residents face higher exposure to air pollution, toxic emissions, and associated health risks, including asthma and respiratory diseases. For example, the Wheelabrator Baltimore incinerator, also known as the BRESKO facility, is located in South Baltimore, an area predominantly inhabited by Black and Hispanic communities.<sup>1</sup>

The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025 amends Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard by altering the definition of Tier 1 renewable sources. The bill removes waste-to-energy and refuse-derived fuel from the list of eligible sources, meaning that energy generated from burning waste or refuse will no longer count toward the state's renewable energy goals. By eliminating these sources, the bill aims to end subsidies for incineration-based energy, which has been criticized for contributing to pollution. The legislation prioritizes cleaner energy sources, maintaining eligibility for solar, wind, geothermal, hydroelectric (under 30 MW), ocean energy, poultry litter-to-energy, fuel cells using biomass or methane, and wastewater heat recovery. These changes reinforce Maryland's commitment to truly sustainable and non-polluting renewable energy sources while shifting incentives away from controversial energy production methods.

By removing waste incineration and refuse-derived fuel from Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS), this bill helps eliminate state subsidies that support pollution in Black, Hispanic, and immigrant communities.

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<sup>1</sup> Neumann, Erik. "Baltimore's Trash Incinerator Faces Civil Rights Complaint Over Pollution in Black, Latino Neighborhoods." *Inside Climate News*, 31 May 2024.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB220.