



1616 P Street, NW
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20036
T +202.683.2500
F +202.683.2501
foodandwaterwatch.org

Testimony In Support of Reclaim Renewable Energy Act – HB220

Position: Favorable

On behalf of the nonprofit Food & Water Watch and our 40,000 Maryland members, we are submitting this testimony in support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act, House Bill 220. Trash incineration should not be counted as ‘renewable energy’ source in our state that is eligible to receive ratepayer subsidies.

Originally, the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) was set up as an important tool to help meet ambitious climate goals in Maryland. But over the years, the program has been used as a waste management subsidy for trash incineration to the detriment of Maryland’s residents and ratepayers.

A real RPS programs would speed up Maryland’s transition to renewable energy to both decrease greenhouse gas emissions and emissions of other dangerous pollutants. In fact, [a new 2023 study in PLOS Climate](#) found that “incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity produced than *any* other power source.”

Governor Moore and other leaders are also now proposing new goals as part of the state’s new “Clean Energy Portfolio Standard” to set the state on a pathway to 100% clean energy by 2035. These new standards, however, should codify that trash incineration and other dirty energy are not defined as “clean” because that would mean that ratepayers would still be paying to subsidize trash incineration. By passing HB 220, this antiquated energy policy can finally be removed from state law.

Ultimately, we must fix this unreasonable and irresponsible section in our state’s energy policy because it is also costing ratepayer money that should be going, if anything, towards funding true renewables like wind or solar.

We urge you to vote “yes” on the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act, HB 220.