



The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain

House Bill 220

Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)

Position: Support
Committee: Economic Matters
Date: February 20, 2025
From: Jeremy D. Baker, Government Relations Director

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** HB 220.

Bill Summary

Beginning on January 1, 2025, HB 220 would amend Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio (RPS) definition of "Tier 1 renewable source" to remove waste-to-energy, refuse-derived fuel, and thermal energy from a thermal biomass system. The remaining eligible sources would be as follows: solar, wind, biomass, methane, geothermal, ocean energy, certain fuel cells, small hydroelectric plants, poultry litter-to-energy, thermal biomass systems, and wastewater used for heating or cooling.

Position Rationale

The legislation aligns with the department's proposal in Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan by better aligning the RPS to support cleaner energy sources, provide resources for clean energy investments, and address public health concerns. As this legislation ensures Maryland aligns its RPS with the broader goal of achieving net-zero emissions, the state needs to continue to find sustainable solutions for waste diversion to meet our climate goals.

Accordingly, MDE asks for a **FAVORABLE** report for HB 220.

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