



SB0010 - SUPPORT  
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## SB0010 – the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Meeting of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

February 11, 2025

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee, on behalf of Elders Climate Action Maryland, I urge a favorable report on SB0010, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

Elders Climate Action is a nationwide organization devoted to ensuring that our children, grandchildren, and future generations have a world in which they can thrive. The Maryland Chapter has members across the state.

Each day, we see the climate crisis more clearly. We know that Maryland is at risk for sea level rise, flooding from intense rainfall, heat waves, and other extreme weather events. Maryland can also be a leader in moving us to a safer, cleaner future where we all can thrive. The clean energy transition is an essential part of that future.

Years ago, electricity generation from trash incineration was thought to be a form of renewable energy. Now we know that it is one of the dirtiest ways to generate electricity. It produces more greenhouse gases per unit of electricity than any other source, including coal. It also produces a wide array of toxic air pollutants, including mercury.

Maryland electricity customers should not be subsidizing this toxic mess, but we do. Utilities buy Renewable Energy Credits from these incinerators in Maryland and Virginia. That money should be spent on real renewables, either by buying

RECs from solar and wind generation or by Alternative Compliance Payments that fund renewable energy projects.

Maryland is facing a period of very tight budgets that may be worsened by loss of some Federal funding. Passing the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act would help us achieve our vital clean energy goals at no cost to the state or to ratepayers. Montgomery County owns one of the incinerators and is likely to lose some revenue, but the county is already working to close that incinerator.

For all of these reasons, we strongly urge a favorable report on SB0010.