



PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND

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Testimony in Support of HB0220/SB0010: Hunter Grove

Dear Chair Wilson and Members of the Committee,

As a resident of Baltimore and a Maryland ratepayer concerned about the health of our home, my friends, family, and future children, I am writing to express my strong support of HB0220 the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

The Climate Crisis is here, and Maryland cannot afford to keep postponing the switch to clean energy. The RPS is an important tool to implement this transition. However, if we continue to subsidize trash incineration with this tool, we are actively contributing to worsening the Climate Crisis. Maryland's budget is already facing a large deficit, and this bill will reallocate money to increase funding for clean energy at no extra cost to the state budget.

In addition to the fact that trash incinerators generate more greenhouse gas emissions than any other source of energy (PLOS), they also emit several pollutants directly harmful to human health, at an estimated \$55 million annually in health damages to our community (Chesapeake Bay Foundation). We simply cannot continue prioritizing corporate profits and greenwashing over the health of our most vulnerable and historically marginalized community members. As citizens of this land, we owe a deep debt of gratitude and responsibility to our home for taking such good care of us and allowing us to build our lives and families here. It is time to start taking care of our home like we want to continue living here.