

CITY OF BALTIMORE

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Councilwoman Phylicia R. L. Porter,
District 10
CHAIR:
Public Health and Environment
MEMBER:
Labor and Workforce
Public Safety
Transportation and Land Use

February 18, 2025

Bill Title: HB0220 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Position:

To: Chair C.T. Wilson , Vice chair Crosby , Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

Dear Chair Wilson Vice chair Crosby and members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 0220, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (RREA) of 2025. My name is Councilwoman Phylicia Porter, representing Baltimore City's Tenth District. First, I would like to thank the community leaders and stakeholders for their advocacy and environmental stewardship. Second, as a public health scientist and local elected official, I know the key public health challenges and harms that my communities face each and every day. It is my hope that my written testimony serves as an indicator of the courage, preservation, and duty as a legislator to ensure that our communities are healthy from an air, water, and energy standpoint.

As Chair of Baltimore City's Public Health and Environment Committee, I support HB0220 and the overall purpose of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025 because it provides us with the unique opportunity to reimagine and reallocate the subsidies for a just, thoughtful, economically viable and forward-thinking transition to renewable energy. The City of Baltimore is igniting the political will in all levels of government from the Mayor of Baltimore to the full utility of my Council office in favorable recommendation for HB0220.

For generations, South Baltimore families have built community while enduring over 60 polluting facilities. As a result, neighborhoods like Brooklyn, Curtis Bay, and Hawkins Point rank among the least healthy in Baltimore. Despite these injustices, the environmental justice community continues to push for sustainable solutions and stronger policies.

This global issue disproportionately harms disadvantaged communities near polluting facilities. Transitioning from fossil fuels requires time, strong policies, and consumer demand for clean energy. While economics fuels debate, history shows that political will and clear benchmarks drive progress.

Governor Moore's administration's Clean Power Standard reinforces the commitment to terminate existing eligibility and subsidies for municipal solid waste incineration. It is important to note that incineration does not qualify as renewable energy. Given this, it is crucial for legislators to act quickly and support the passage of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act, thereby freeing Maryland residents from the financial and environmental constraints imposed by incinerator companies.

Sincerely,



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