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The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair; Cheryl Kagan, Vice Chair
And members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

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Unfavorable – HB220 Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources – Alterations2
(Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)

Hello, my name is David Pendleton. I am the Director of the Maryland Safety and Legislative Board for the Transportation Division of the International Association of Sheet Metal Air Rail Transportation Workers (SMART). Our members in the State of Maryland are employed by CSX Transportation, Norfolk Southern, Canton Railroad, Amtrak and MARC (Amtrak and Alstom). We are Train Conductors, Locomotive Engineers, Yardmasters, Switchmen and Utility Workers. We are the **TRAIN UNION**.

On behalf of the members we serve, I am urging this committee to vote **unfavorably** on HB220.

HB220 would exclude waste-to-energy as a “*tier 1 renewable source*”, making it ineligible for inclusion in the renewable portfolio standard.

Waste-to-Energy is an invaluable Greenhouse gas mitigating tool. If we were to compare how this technology was used around the world. There would be no finer example than Sweden.


Considered the [greenest](#) country in the world, with 5 of the top 25 cities with the cleanest air in [Europe](#), Sweden has over 34 WTE facilities in its borders. It only sends 1% of its waste to landfills and each of the 5 cities ([Uppsala](#), [Umea](#), [Norrkoping](#), [Stockholm](#), [Gothengurg](#)) on the cleanest air list has a WTE facility operating within its [city limits](#). Dispelling the notion that WTE facilities are bad for air quality.

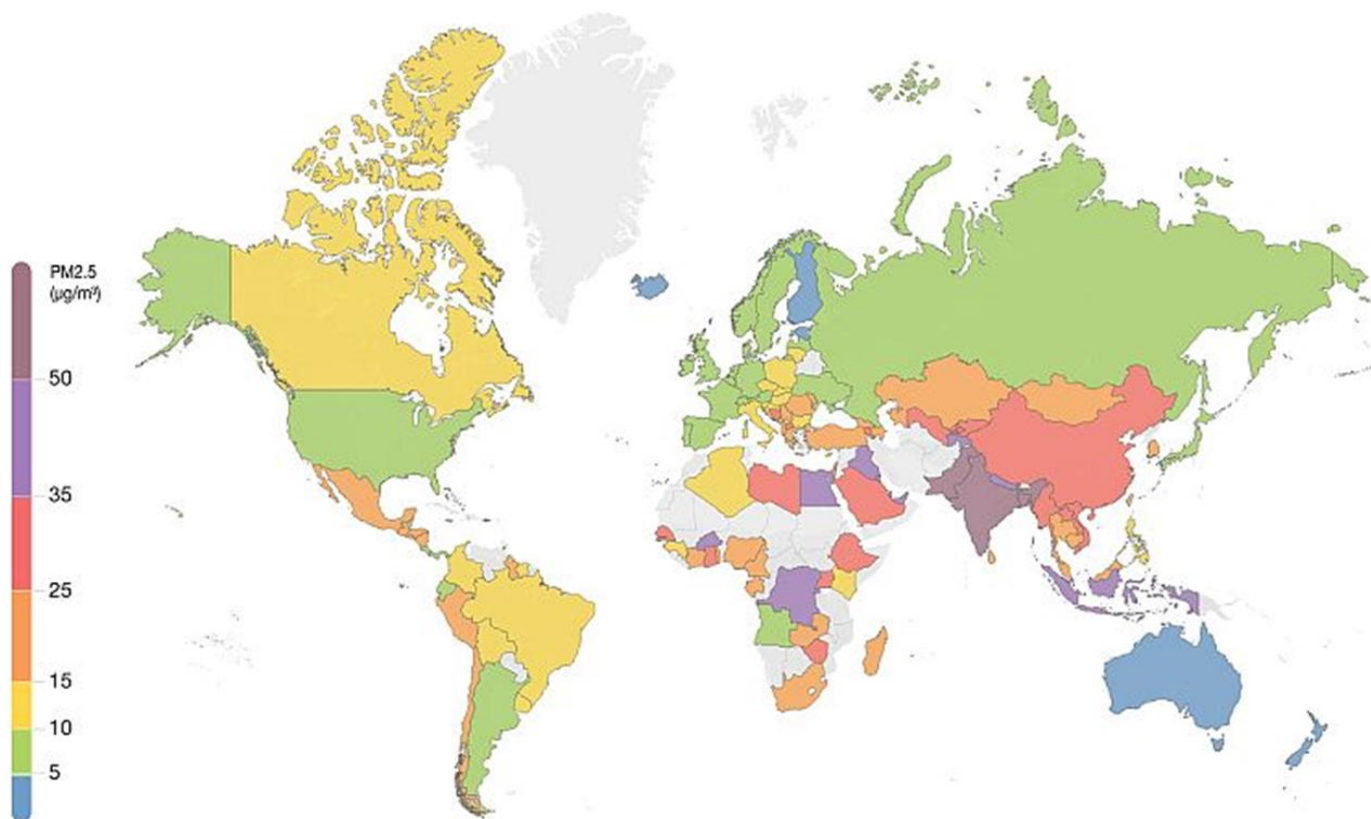
In addition to the 99% of waste that’s disposed of through WTE in Sweden, it also imports nearly [2 million](#) tons of waste from other [countries](#) and brings in over 100 million euros a year doing so. The WTE industry in Sweden is a [\\$2-billion](#) a year industry, creating jobs, generating nearly 15% of the heat and 8% of the electricity used by its citizens in the process.

Maryland should be leading the way on the use of this technology. There are 5 [neighboring](#) upwind states that causes most of the air pollution in Maryland. They may be our first customers should this service be made available to them.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our position. We urge an unfavorable report!

Sincerely,

David Sr
David Pendleton Sr., Chairperson/Director
Maryland Safety & Legislative Board, LO-023
 Transportation Division



Concentrations of PM2.5 around the globe-IQAir
Based on data from the 2024 World Air Quality Report