



Committee: House Economic Matters Committee

Testimony on: House Bill 220, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Organization: Mobilize Frederick

Submitting: Karen Cannon, Executive Director

Position: FAVORABLE

Hearing Date: February 20, 2025

Dear Chair Wilson, Vice-Chair Crosby, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 220 — the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act. Mobilize Frederick strongly supports House Bill 220 and urges the Committee to issue a favorable report on this bill.

Mobilize Frederick is a nonprofit community advocacy organization formed to assist with implementing the recommendations of the 2021 Climate Response and Resilience Report (CRRR). The CRRR is a comprehensive climate action plan chartered by the City of Frederick and Frederick County designed to put Frederick City and County on the path to safer, healthier, and more resilient communities through innovative and effective local solutions to address climate change.

As an organization with climate-related progress at the forefront of our mission, we recognize that Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) is an important tool to support clean, renewable energy development and decrease emissions from the electricity sector. In an era of very tight budgets in Maryland, our state can increase support for actual clean energy by passing the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act, thereby preventing trash incineration from competing with solar, wind and other clean energy sources for the sale of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs).

Utilities currently using incinerator RECs to comply with Maryland's RPS will purchase RECs from the renewable energy sources that remain eligible for the RPS, or pay Alternative Compliance Payments (funding that Maryland law designates for low-income renewable energy projects). In either case, this will reallocate money to increase funding for clean renewable energy, with no cost to the state budget.

It's likely that most Marylanders would be surprised to learn that they are subsidizing trash incineration in their utility payments. They would be disappointed by the findings in the

EPA's Emissions Inventory: in 2020, the three trash incinerators profiting from Maryland's RPS emitted 2.5 million tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere, as well as mercury, lead, particulate matter (both PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀), sulfur dioxide, nitrous oxide, and carbon monoxide, all of which are dangerous to public health. HB 220 will redirect REC funds to real clean renewable energy sources that do not emit pollutants and GHG emissions.

Please support public health and fiscal and climate responsibility by issuing a **favorable** report on House Bill 220, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

Karen Cannon
Executive Director

cc: Kathy Kinsey
Chair, Government Affairs and Policy Committee