



## Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

### Testimony in Support of HB 220 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)

TO: Chair Wilson and Members of the Economic Matters Committee  
FROM: Phil Webster, PhD, Lead Advocate, Climate Change  
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The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland strongly supports **HB 220 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)**.

The UULM-MD is a faith-based advocacy organization based on Unitarian Universalist (UU) Values, including *Justice* (where all feel welcome and can thrive) and *Interdependence* (honoring the interdependent web of all existence). Working to mitigate, adapt to, and build resilience for climate change is central to our beliefs. The **HB 220 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)** aligns with both of the values.

**The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act** advances *Justice* by reducing incentives to incinerate trash which has known negative health for the overburdened residents nearby. Trash incineration is among the dirtiest ways to produce electricity. Incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity produced than any other power source, even coal plants. Incinerators emit mercury and lead into the air nearby communities breathe, which are not safe for human exposure at any level.

**The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act** advances *Interdependence* by removing subsidies from trash incineration. Subsidizing trash incineration isn't getting Maryland electricity that delivers decreased greenhouse gas emissions or a healthier environment. But Maryland is wasting a lot of money profiting trash incinerators, because right now, trash incineration counts as "renewable" in the RPS. When Maryland passes the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act, those funds will be available to support real renewable energy.

We urge a FAVORABLE report on **The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act** in committee.

*Phil Webster, PhD*

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