

Dear **Members of the Economic Matters Committee**,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition. I am a resident of District 8. **I am testifying in support of HB0220.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

In my job as a Communications Specialist for a civil engineering firm, our work includes developing climate action plans. When I engage with the public, I talk to a lot of residents who feel frustrated that they are being asked to do individual actions like recycling when the incinerator in their neighborhood is spewing pollution into their communities. It is unfair and a slap in the face to ask individuals to make efforts but for the state of Maryland to pretend that burning trash produces clean energy.

Burning trash should never have been labeled a renewable energy source in the first place, and it is a shame and an embarrassment that year after year, we have continued this giveaway to trash incinerators in lieu of simply fixing this obvious and easily-resolvable flaw in the law. Now, when the budget crisis is forcing us to look closely at the value we are getting for every expenditure, is the perfect opportunity to make this change.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of HB0220 - the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025** (Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations).

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Melissa Badeker
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Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore