

Testimony Supporting HB438 / SB560
House Economic Matters Committee / Senate Finance Committee
February 20, 2020 / February 25, 2020

Position: SUPPORT

As a Maryland ratepayer from District 41 in the city, I write urging you to vote in favor of HB438 / SB560. This would remove trash incineration from the Maryland Renewable Portfolio Standard. Burning trash is just as dirty as it sounds! It does not provide clean energy. These subsidies should be reserved for green energy like solar and wind, and not for polluting industries like trash incineration.

I am kept awake at night by climate change, and believe strongly that it is the responsibility of my generation to do everything within our power to put the brakes on it. It is within our power to take subsidies away from polluting industries so that green energy can have that support instead. Incineration produces more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of energy than coal plants, according to the Environmental Integrity Project. It is anything but green.

In addition I know too many city residents who have asthma, including the little sister of the boy I mentor, who are growing up in southwest Baltimore. The fine air pollution from the BRESKO incinerator causes over \$55 million annually in adverse health effects, according to a study by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Living near it has the same health impact as living with a smoker.

And there are alternatives. New clean energy could be made possible by removing the "waste-to-energy" incineration from the RPS. This would reduce a huge source of Baltimore's carbon emissions.

We should not pay BRESKO to pollute our air and exacerbate climate change by producing more greenhouse gas per unit of energy than coal.

These are just a few of the reasons of which I have many more to urge the House Economic Matters Committee to support HB438 / SB560 and end subsidies for trash incineration in Maryland. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bonny Eisenbise