

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

Position: SUPPORT

As a resident of District 43 and a Maryland ratepayer, I am writing to express my VERY strong support for HB438/SB560 and the effort to remove trash incineration from Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard. Burning trash is NOT clean energy, and Maryland's renewable energy subsidies should ONLY be used to support TRULY green energy like wind, solar, geothermal, tidal, NOT trash incineration which pollutes our air.

My beloved husband, a long-time and worsening asthma sufferer, died in June of 2016 of a heart attack while he was trying to use the asthma nebulizer he had had to use for the last few years as his breathing got worse. Mercury, particulates, ozone, all result from burning mixed trash. That is in NO WAY CLEAN.

A Chesapeake Bay Foundation-commissioned study showed that over \$55 million a year in adverse health effects are caused by fine particulates emitted by the BRESKO incinerator. Of course there is NO price which can be placed on my sorrow. That study also showed that living near the incinerator is like living with a smoker. Neither he nor I smoke or smoked, but we couldn't and can't help breathing the incinerator's foul emissions. Cells in our bodies damaged by pollution sadly don't have little flags showing what poison or poisons did the damage, but I have absolutely NO doubt the BRESKO incinerator contributed to my husband's death.

For all of these reasons and many more, I STRONGLY urge the House Economic Matters Committee and Senate Finance Committee to support HB438/SB560 and END subsidies for trash incineration in Maryland. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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