

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

**Position: SUPPORT**

As a resident of the 43<sup>rd</sup> district in Baltimore, as a member of the St Matthew Catholic Church Green Team and Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home, and as one who can see the BRESKO incinerator looming over downtown neighborhoods from my house near Johns Hopkins Homeland Campus, I am writing to express my strong support of 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 be used to support truly green energy like wind and solar, not trash incineration that pollutes our communities.

These other ways of generating clean energy, as an urgent priority, need our investment. Coupled with reducing waste, recycling and composting, we can hand on a sustainable world to our children and their children's children. We have to take the long view and must get out of the business of "permitting" any amount of poisons and harmful particulates to pollute our air. Our planet and its atmosphere have a lot of healing to do. We don't have to poison and pollute anymore now that we have better and clean ways of meeting our energy needs.

And so, I 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,

*J. Stephen Cleghorn, PhD*  
*310 Ridgemedede Rd*