



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

HB 438

DATE: February 20, 2020

SPONSOR: Delegate Mosby, et al.

ASSIGNED TO: Economic Matters

CONTACT PERSON: Amy Samman (amy.samman@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: SUPPORT

Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources

House Bill 438 removes waste to energy and refuse-derived fuel from the list of Tier 1 renewable sources on January 1, 2021 but does not impair any existing obligation or contract right.

The Renewable Portfolio Standard was set up to encourage the development of clean sources of electricity generation like solar and wind. States created renewable standards in order to diversify their energy resources to include cleaner sources of generation, the promotion of domestic energy production, and to encourage economic development. According to a study by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, roughly half of the growth in U.S. renewable energy generation since 2000 can be attributed to state renewable energy standards.

The primary function of waste-to-energy is not to generate energy; it is a solid waste management method that happens to generate electricity as a by-product. Including waste-to-energy as a Tier I resource under Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard could potentially displace the development of new renewable sources of power like solar and wind.

For the foregoing reasons, Montgomery County respectfully requests a favorable Committee report for House Bill 438.