



GLEN ECHO HEIGHTS MOBILIZATION

Committee: Finance Committee
Sponsor: Senator Hough
Testimony on: SB 560 – Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources
Position: Support
Hearing Date: February 25, 2020

Glen Echo Heights Mobilization submits this letter in support of SB 560, a bill to remove trash incineration from the Renewable Portfolio Standard and redefine clean energy sources to exclude trash incineration. It would also and in particular remove state funding incentives for the dangerous BRESKO incinerator.

SB 560 would:

- Change the current inclusion of trash incineration as a defined clean energy source.
- Defeat the government subsidy for trash incineration.
- Conform to the State's commitments to reduce emissions from fossil fuels as reflected in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act and the Clean Energy Jobs Act, by also removing incentives for the greenhouse gas emission, mercury, carbon monoxide, and other pollutants emitted by incineration.

We support this legislation for the following reasons:

- **Maryland would join communities in other states that have already set deadlines for achieving net zero emissions in their economies.**
- **Maryland would join communities reliant on science rather than politics for developing our children's futures.**
- **SB 560 would support environmental justice goals by preventing the incentivization of trash incineration in low-income communities.**
- **The bill would permit the state to focus on subsidies for true renewable resources (including wind and solar).**
- **The bill would benefit communities suffering from incinerator emissions and take a stab at reducing the \$55 million in medical bills attributed to the BRESKO incinerator by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.**

Conclusion

This bill provides multiple benefits to Maryland citizens. Of principle importance to our organization, it supports Maryland's existing commitments towards and future development of clean energy and stops using incentives in a way that negatively impacts citizen health. We urge a favorable report by this Committee.

Glen Echo Heights Mobilization is a group of local residents that meets regularly to discuss and take actions to make progressive change happen at the municipal, county, state and federal levels.