

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

Position: SUPPORT

As a resident of your district, 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.

As an 18-year-old high school student, the dangers of climate change cause me to worry about my future. What if there is a natural disaster in my state? How will I comfortably live if a drought or heat wave occurs? I can't choose to raise a family by the ocean, because sea levels are rising. How will grocery stores be impacted if agriculture in my state is compromised? And will all of these worries follow me for the rest of my life? The answer is yes if we don't take action to prevent the irreversible effects of climate change. One way you can do your part is vote to support HB438 / SB560. Trash incinerators are one of the silent contributors to climate change.

- *Coal power plants are seen as the biggest enemy to climate change, however trash incinerators emit 2.5 times as much carbon dioxide, 28 times as much as dioxin, 5 times as much as carbon monoxide, 3 times as much as nitrogen oxides, 6-14 times as much as mercury, nearly 6 times as much as lead, and 70 percent more sulfur dioxides as a coal power plant to create the same amount of energy*
- *Incinerators release dioxins which are the most lethal Persistent Organic Pollutants*
- *Air pollutants from waste incinerators increase the risk of preterm births, cancers of the blood and lung, reproductive, neurological, and thyroid defects, and respiratory issues.*
- *Incinerators are incredibly expensive (roughly 100 million dollars) and have a short life-span*

For all of these reasons and many more, please support HB438/SB560 and end subsidies for trash incineration in Maryland. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Victoria Clark