



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AFL-CIO

7 School Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2096

Balto. (410) 269-1940 • Fax (410) 280-2956

President
Donna S. Edwards

Secretary-Treasurer
Gerald W. Jackson

SB 560 – Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources
Senate Finance Committee
February 25, 2019

OPPOSE

Donna S. Edwards
President
Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to SB 560 – Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources. My name is Donna Edwards, President of the Maryland State and DC, AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 340,000 union members in the state of Maryland, I offer the following comments.

Waste-to-Energy (WTE) facilities around Maryland employ hundreds of workers, directly, and support hundreds more through transportation, facility maintenance, and secondary and tertiary support industries and businesses. The workers at the plants enjoy family-sustaining wages with benefits, which, oftentimes, do not exist in the communities in which they are located.

SB 560 removes waste-to-energy and refuse-derived fuel from Tier 1 of the Renewable energy Portfolio Standard. A clean and sustainable energy future depends on a robust RPS, which includes these sources of energy. Without them, we cannot meet our renewable energy needs, and would need to still dispose of the waste in another fashion. Waste would still be a pollution issue, leading to the State continuing to intervene on proper disposal. We would not realize the energy benefits of WTE facilities nor the well compensated jobs they create and support, yet we would be saddled, as taxpayers, with the additional costs of the remediation of pollution.

We urge an unfavorable on SB 560.