

## **Cedar Lane Environmental Justice Ministry - Lee McNair**

**February 02, 2021**

### **Favorable**

**Incineration is not clean energy!** Maryland has been paying - via rate-payer (citizen's cash) - subsidies to area trash incinerators since 2011 when such payments were included in Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS).

Sadly for the vulnerable citizens of Maryland, trash incineration pollutes the air they breathe especially those disadvantaged poor and Black, Indigenous, People Of Color (BIPOC) communities located near incinerators. Incinerators pollute the air with mercury, lead, particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, and other pollutants that adversely affect the health of near-by residents leading to greater incidents of Asthma, COPD, and more serious illness for persons who contract COVID-19. In fact, incinerators pollute the air **at a higher level than that found in communities near coal plants!**

The RPS was created to support the development of clean, renewable energy, not to prop up aging polluting facilities like trash incinerators. We are past due eliminating this past mistake, this source of harm to Marylanders. Please put an end to subsidized pollution through incineration.

As people of faith, we see this as an equity issue, a health issue, and a climate change issue. Allowing this to continue is disrespectful to the inherent worth and dignity of every person living near such pollution and it is an affront to the interdependent web of all existence of which we humans are a part. As such, we request you to listen to your better angels by voting this bill out as **favorable**.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our position.