



Bill No. **HB-0280**
Name: **Peter Alexander, PhD**
Position: **Favorable**
RE: **Testimony before the House Economic Matters Committee**
Date: **February 09, 2021**

Mr. Chairman, Madame Vice Chair, and members of the Committee,

I represent the 700+ members of Indivisible Howard County MD. I am writing in support of HB-0280, Maryland Recycling Act - Recyclable Materials and Resource Recovery Facilities - Alterations, which among other provisions would change the definition of recyclable material to exclude incineration ash from the Maryland Recycling Act (MRA).

Burning trash is not clean energy and shouldn't qualify for RPS subsidies which are intended for energy sources such as wind and solar. Trash incineration currently receives the same subsidies as these truly clean energy sources. The fact that trash incineration receives any utility ratepayer-funded subsidies is a misappropriation of those utility bill dollars.

Further, the MRA currently, allows incinerator ash to be defined as a "recyclable" material. This doesn't make sense. Incinerator ash is a toxic material and shouldn't be considered as being recyclable. By changing the definition of recyclable material to exclude incineration ash from the MRA, communities will not be allowed to include trash combustion as a Tier 1 option in the RPS.

Let's stop subsidizing trash incineration and creating toxic incinerator ash waste. Trash incineration is not a clean energy source and we should be using those subsidies to support truly clean energy sources while developing viable alternatives for diverting waste from our landfill.

We urge a favorable report.

Peter Alexander, PhD
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