



BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL
KRISTERFER BURNETT, 8TH DISTRICT

Room 521, City Hall
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Baltimore, Maryland 21202
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BILL NO: SB148/ HB66
TITLE: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources
COMMITTEE: House Economic Matters Committee and Senate Finance Committee
POSITION: **SUPPORT with Sponsor Amendments**

Baltimore City Council passed resolution 10-0135R, “For the purpose of urging the Maryland General Assembly to pass and the Governor to sign legislation establishing a clear and enforceable commitment to finally move Maryland beyond coal-fired power plants, and to create a Coal Community Transition Fund to support impacted communities and workers.”

While there are no coal-fired boilers in Baltimore City, on the days of the year when these over 50-year-old power plants fire up their boilers, in Anne Arundel, Prince George’s, Charles, Allegany, and Montgomery Counties the toxic and dangerous pollution like lead, mercury, selenium, smog-forming nitrogen oxides, and acid rain-causing sulfur pollution doesn’t stop at the Baltimore city line. That means that Baltimoreans, especially our most vulnerable children and elderly, are suffering from asthma attacks and getting sick.

Three coal plants in Maryland are operating without modern pollution controls that provide a safeguard for smog-forming nitrogen oxides. Breathing smog which is like getting sunburn on your lungs. This should be solved at the state level as eighty-eight percent of Marylanders live in counties unable to meet clean air smog standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Coal is an outdated and uneconomical way to meet our energy needs—and the market is proving that. In the last decade, across the country nearly 300 coal plants have retired or announced retirement, often with little notice for workers and communities. The legislature should provide certainty for this transition for our local governments who rely on the tax base, the workers who rely on these coal companies for their paychecks, and for all of our fight against climate chaos.

It is time for Maryland to pass this plan, SB 148/HB66, to prepare our workers, our communities, and our energy system for the transition away from coal-fired power plants to renewable energy.

Sincerely,

Kristerfer Burnett
City Councilmen District 8
Baltimore City

