

SENATOR DELORES G. KELLEY
Legislative District 10
Baltimore County

—
Chair
Finance Committee

—
Executive Nominations Committee
Rules Committee
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY OF SENATOR DELORES G. KELLEY

**REGARDING SENATE BILL 65-ELECTRICITY-RENEWABLE ENERGY
PORTFOLIO STANDARD-QUALIFYING BIOMASS**

BEFORE THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

ON JANUARY 21, 2021

Mr. Vice Chair and Members:

As you know, Maryland’s Renewable Portfolio Standard is one of the State’s primary tools for combating climate change, and for supporting the development of new, clean and renewable energy sources. In 2019, this Committee passed an ambitious, much expanded RPS bill, increasing the State’s commitment to wind, solar and other clean technologies. However, there is still work to be done, as there are several remaining sources that are not clean.

Black liquor, a mix of caustic chemicals and wood waste, left over from the manufacture of paper, remains in our portfolio, and releases carbon dioxide, a

major greenhouse gas that harms the climate, and human health. While the votes were not there in the 2019 session to remove black liquor from Maryland's RPS, because of some members' concerns regarding the impact on jobs at Luke Mill, the Mill subsequently closed anyway, and we have no legitimate reason to retain black liquor in our RPS, as it no longer meets any of Maryland's environmental or economic goals. The passage of Senate Bill 65 would remove black liquor from our RPS.

Even before the closure of Luke Mill, black liquor was the source of 24% of all Tier 1 RPS REC's, with Luke Mill supplying only 6.6% of those black liquor REC's. In other words, Maryland rate payers have been subsidizing black liquor from Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, and Tennessee. Without passage of SB65, we continue to subsidize pollution being generated in four other states, while producing nothing of value for Maryland. We are currently paying for out-of-state operations that produce no jobs in Maryland, while impacting public health and the climate, by adding harmful pollutants, including nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide.

Maryland's RPS should support clean energy, preferably with a beneficial impact to Maryland's economy, rather than continuing to grant REC's to out-

of-state paper mills. Senate Bill 65 removes black liquor from the RPS, and strengthens our State's commitment to truly cleaner, renewable energy projects. I, therefore, ask for your strong support of Senate Bill 65.