



Committee: Economic Matters

Testimony on: HB11 – Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Organization: Greenbelt Climate Action Network

Submitting: Lore Rosenthal

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: March 4, 2022

Dear Chairman and Committee Members:

The Greenbelt Climate Action Network (GCAN) is writing in support of **HB11 – Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2022.**

GCAN's mission is to educate residents about climate change, “systemic” solutions, how they can change their behaviors to be more sustainable, and take personal, local, systemic, and political action.

HB11 will make sure that our subsidies for renewable energy through the Renewable Portfolio Standard are going toward actual renewable energy. We are in a climate crisis, and we cannot afford to be spending our renewable energy money on facilities that emit greenhouse gasses - now is the time to double down Maryland’s commitment to truly renewable energy and subsidize only facilities that are emissions-free.

Burning trash, chicken litter, and wood waste and manufacturing methane all pollute the environment, harm nearby communities’ health, and contribute to climate change: a bad investment of public dollars that every Maryland utility ratepayer contributes to. None of these should be defined as “renewable energy”. We need to clean up our RPS. Every Renewable Energy Credit that goes toward a facility that emits greenhouse gasses is a Renewable Energy Credit taken away from a facility that does not - an egregious waste of public money.

Because of the inclusion of these polluters in the Renewable Portfolio Standard, Maryland ratepayers paid over \$30 million to buy Renewable Energy Credits from facilities that emit greenhouse gasses in 2020, and over \$246 million since 2008. The Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility estimates that if nothing changes, those costs will mount to half a billion dollars subsidizing polluters by 2030. Please support HB11 so that those dollars can go toward supporting wind, solar, hydro, and geothermal power - not greenhouse gas emissions.

For all these reasons, we recommend a FAVORABLE report for **HB11** in committee.

Sincerely,
Lore Rosenthal, Program Coordinator
Greenbelt Climate Action Network