



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 718

DATE: March 9, 2023

SPONSOR: Delegate Stewart, *et al.*

ASSIGNED TO: Economic Matters

CONTACT PERSON: Garrett Fitzgerald (garrett.fitzgerald@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: Support

Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources – Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2023)

The Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) was established to encourage the development of clean, renewable, domestic sources of electricity generation like wind and solar. This bill will refocus the RPS by removing energy derived from waste, wood waste products, and animal manure from counting as Tier I renewable energy sources. Removing these relatively dirty and greenhouse gas-producing resources will appropriately focus investment dollars on the development of wind and solar resources in our region.

Waste-to-energy is misaligned with the goal of the RPS. These systems are primarily designed to accomplish solid waste management, generating electricity as a by-product. Including waste to-energy as a Tier I resource under Maryland's RPS incentivizes these systems and could slow the development of cleaner and more truly renewable energy sources.

Removing waste-to-energy from RPS eligibility will result in a short-term financial impact to Montgomery County due to the loss of revenue from renewable energy credits. However, this change will be valuable in the long-term, as it will help us to achieve Montgomery County's climate and zero waste goals.

We respectfully request that the Economic Matters Committee issue a favorable report on House Bill 718.