



**Testimony in Support of the Reclaim Renewables Act
HB 0718
Education, Energy, and the Environment
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On behalf of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund, I urge a favorable report on HB 0718, the Reclaim Renewables Act.

Wind and solar coupled with batteries are now the cheapest way to create electricity. The costs of wind, solar, and batteries have been falling steadily for decades, and now, with the investments in these technologies from the Inflation Reduction Act, they are by far the most cost effective way to generate electricity 24/7/365. [A recent report](#) found that it would lower energy costs if the United States replaced 99% of coal plants with wind and solar. That's why [74%](#) of all new energy built in 2022 was wind, solar, or batteries, a percentage that has been shooting up every year. Globally, solar electricity is expected to have more installed capacity than any other energy source just four years from now. We are seeing the effects here in Maryland where the Dickerson Coal Plant closed and is being replaced, megawatt for megawatt, with solar coupled with batteries.

This is good news because it means we power our society with 100% clean, renewable electricity and save money in the process. It is also good news because it means there is no longer any reason to subsidize dirty sources of energy through Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard.

According to the US Department of Energy, waste to energy costs consumers between [8 and 11 cents per kilowatt hour](#). Today, DOE estimates the cost of utility scale solar energy at [6 cents per kilowatt hour](#), and that's not even accounting for solar cost reductions achieved by the Inflation Reduction Act.

Waste to energy and biomass facilities have always been harmful to the people who live near and around them. Life's have been altered by asthma, or lost to cancer because of the dioxins and other toxic co-combustants emitted at these facilities and breathed in by people. Now, subsidizing these facilities as part of Maryland's RPS does the additional harm of helping to raise rates on all Marylanders.

It is time to pass the Reclaim Renewables Act to take burning trash, burning forests, and poultry litter out of Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard.



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