

THE BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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March 7, 2023

The Honorable C.T. Wilson, Chair
Economic Matters Committee
Room 231
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

REFERENCE: OPPOSE – HOUSE BILL 718

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

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Garrett County Commissioners wishes to express its strong opposition for House Bill 718 – Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources – Alternations (Reclaim: Renewable Energy Act of 2023) due to the impact this Bill would have on forest industry businesses, landowners, forestry professionals, sporting groups, and concerned citizens in Western Maryland.

Energy from woody biomass serves Maryland very well in several ways from reaching environmental goals, energy independence, maintaining and improving forest stands. Biomass energy provides Maryland taxpayers with a sensible return on investment in their environment and community.

This Bill, as written, would eliminate the future potential for biomass systems to qualify for renewable energy credits with severe implications for forestry, wood waste, and bioenergy operations. It would increase the amount of waste sent to landfills, reduce jobs, prevent Maryland from reaching its environmental goals by 2023.

Enactment of this legislation will create another financial hardship for an industry which has already been severely impacted by a weak economy. Therefore, the Board of County Commissioners asks for an unfavorable review of House Bill 718.

On Behalf of the Board,



Paul C. Edwards
Chairman