



PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND

P.O. Box 6988 Largo, MD 20792
www.ProgressiveMaryland.org
Contact@ProgressiveMaryland.org
[Facebook.com/ProgressiveMaryland](https://www.facebook.com/ProgressiveMaryland)
[@Progressive_MD](https://twitter.com/Progressive_MD)

Testimony on Maryland House Bill 718 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

TO: Chair Wilson, Speaker of the House Jones, and members of the committee

FROM: Donna Kirkpatrick, Progressive Maryland Member

DATE: March 7, 2023

POSITION: Favorable

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act. Progressive Maryland is a grassroots nonprofit organization with regional chapters from Frederick to the Lower Shore and more than 100,000 members and supporters who live in nearly every legislative district in the state. In addition, there are dozens of affiliated community, faith, and labor organizations across the state that stand behind our work. Our mission is to improve the lives of working families in Maryland. Please note our **strong support for HB718**.

I became involved with this plight after hearing of the blatant ignorance and greed of one company, Wheelabrator, and the laws that allow them to kill Black lives of those that reside in particular communities of South Baltimore, MD. Cherry Hill, Brooklyn, and Curtis Bay to name a few. All for profit.

An incinerator that has been burning trash since 1985, that produces toxins. These toxins are causing premature deaths by cancer, lung diseases, birth defects, and more. With the astounding decrease of life expectancy of less than 70 years!

To continue to expound on the stats and devastating results of this incinerator, is only a refresher course for the powers that be that continue to allow it to thrive.

The Baltimore City Council and the lawmakers of this State, have agreed that this burning of trash is environmentally friendly! To equate the word "green" energy with the production of toxins that pollute the air, water, and land of residential areas, is reprehensible.

Profit over people should never be a consideration. Yet it is a daily occurrence of the Black and Brown citizens of the aforementioned areas of Baltimore. Baltimore is well known for crimes committed by people, one on another. But we are also on the list of less than a dozen states that allow this type of deadly incineration. However, it's not a hot topic. Why is that?

To afford millions of taxpayers' dollars for the continuation and knowledge of such devastation, should be a crime. That crime is Murder.

When was the trial? Who were the victims? Who were the judges? Was the verdict to continue the voluntary demise of thousands of innocent people, made by a jury of their peers?

I think not! I implore you, no I demand on behalf of the citizens of South Baltimore, Maryland, that the incineration of trash by Wheelabrator, to Cease and Desist immediately. In order for this to come to fruition, our city, our lawmakers, and Wheelabrator have to demonstrate a genuine level of compassion for humanity. What is your degree of compassion? Please save our lives.

May God have mercy on US!

For these reasons, **we respectfully urge a favorable report on HB718.**

Donna Kirkpatrick

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