



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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March 9, 2023

To: House Economic Matters Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Opposition of HB 718 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2023)**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony opposing HB 718. This bill removes several energy sources from eligibility for inclusion in the State Renewable Energy Portfolio (RPS), more specifically: (1) certain forest-related and gas sources of qualifying biomass; (2) thermal biomass systems that use primarily animal manure; (3) poultry litter-to-energy; (4) waste-to-energy; and (5) refuse-derived fuel.

As the state moves towards more and more renewable energy generation, utilizing biomass to generate energy not only utilizes waste products, but captures the methane and uses it instead of just letting it go into the atmosphere. With many of the paper mills shutting down, the need for a new use of wood products is needed. Anaerobic digesters are starting to be installed on dairy farms to capture methane gas and utilize it as a renewable energy source to make electricity for the farm instead of just letting it go into the atmosphere. We need to be increasing our sources of renewable energy to meet the ever-growing demand on electricity in Maryland, not removing them.

MDFB Policy: We support an additional carve-out in the Maryland RPS for woody biomass, poultry litter and livestock manure to energy generation.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU RESPECTFULLY OPPOSES HB 718

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colby Ferguson'.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396