



TESTIMONY FOR HB0718

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

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Stewart

Committee: Economic Matters

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0718 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

This bill will ensure that Maryland is not subsidizing businesses that produce dirty but renewable energy. We are in a climate crisis, and we cannot afford to be spending any money on facilities that pollute. Not only is it wasteful to subsidize businesses that continue to pollute, it makes it harder to meet the greenhouse gas reductions that are required to reduce the harm caused by climate change.

This bill will eliminate three types of energy from Maryland's RPS: trash incineration, woody biomass, and factory farm methane gas. All three of these pollute the environment, harm nearby communities' health, and contribute to climate change. Subsidizing them takes money away from the real renewable energy that we need, and it also tilts waste markets toward the worst methods of managing our waste. We should be subsidizing businesses that do not pollute the environment, like wind and solar power, and let the waste sector work on managing waste.

Our members do not like the idea that we are subsidizing businesses that pollute. We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.