

CITY OF BALTIMORE

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Councilwoman Phylcia R. L. Porter District 10

MEMBER:
Public Safety and Government Operations
Education, Workforce, and Youth
Health, Environment, and Technology

February 24, 2023

Councilwoman Phylcia Porter's Testimony Supporting SB590
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
February 28, 2023

Senator Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Senate Bill 0590 Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2023)

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

As Councilwoman for Baltimore's Tenth District, I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 0590 Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard and the necessary push to alter language in the renewable energy portfolio standard specifically regarding "qualifying biomass", "thermal biomass system", and "Tier 1 renewable source."

For generations, families of South Baltimore have gathered, built community, and labored. However, they have done so in the presence of over sixty facilities handling hazardous or toxic materials and producers of pollution, like the BRESKO waste incinerator plant. The harsh environmental conditions perpetuated by cumulative impacts have resulted in neighborhoods in my district such as Brooklyn, Curtis Bay, and Hawkins Point being the 3rd least healthy neighborhood cluster in Baltimore City. Despite being disproportionately affected by countless social and environmental injustices, the environmental justice community has sought strategic and sustainable solutions and most importantly deserve stronger environmental and land use policies.

I support Senate Bill 0590 and the overall purpose of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2023 because it provides us with the unique opportunity to take the subsidies from the BRESKO incinerator and use those subsidies for a just transition to Zero Waste such as composting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phylcia R.L. Porter".

Phylcia R.L. Porter MPH, MSL
Councilwoman, Baltimore City Council, District 10