

THE BOARD OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

203 South Fourth Street - Courthouse - Room 207 Oakland, Maryland 21550

www.garrettcountry.org countycommissioners@garrettcountry.org

301-334-8970

301-895-3188

FAX 301-334-5000

Board of Commissioners

Paul C. Edwards
Ryan S. Savage
S. Larry Tichnell

County Administrator

Kevin G. Null

County Attorney

Gorman E. Getty III

February 27, 2023

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

REFERENCE: OPPOSE – SENATE BILL 590

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 Senate Bill 590 – 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 Senate Bill 590

On Behalf of the Board,



Paul C. Edwards
Chairman