

Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association
a chapter of the



**National
Waste & Recycling
Association**SM

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TO: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Members, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
The Honorable Karen Lewis Young

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
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DATE: February 28, 2023

RE: **OPPOSE** – Senate Bill 590 – *Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources – Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2023)*

The Maryland Delaware Solid Waste Association (MDSWA), a chapter of the National Waste and Recycling Association, is a trade association representing the private solid waste industry in the State of Maryland. Its membership includes hauling and collection companies, processing and recycling facilities, transfer stations, and disposal facilities. MDSWA and its members **oppose** Senate Bill 590.

Senate Bill 590 proposes to alter the definition for a number of current energy sources from a “Tier 1 renewable energy source” and then repeals many of them as Tier 1 sources or the change in definition essentially negates the Tier 1 status. These sources include energy derived from certain types of qualifying biomass, methane from anaerobic digestion under certain conditions, poultry litter-to-energy, waste-to-energy, and energy from a thermal biomass system. MDSWA does not support the removal from Tier 1 of any of the sources proposed for exclusion by this legislation and/or their altered definitions. However, it specifically wishes to register its opposition to the removal of refuse derived fuel and waste-to-energy.

Landfills are an essential component of the management of the State’s waste stream. MDSWA strongly supports the reduction, reuse, and recycling of waste and is actively involved in efforts to enhance Maryland’s recycling and waste recovery infrastructure. However, there will always be a need to landfill some portion of the waste stream. Methane recovery and conversion to an energy source is critical to the State’s efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and has proven to be a reliable and cost-effective source of renewable energy. It should not be removed from Tier 1. Similarly, waste-to-energy is not only a renewable source of energy, it is regarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a reliable and responsible method of waste disposal, and is subject to stringent state and federal air, water, and solid waste regulations. As the Association representing the entire private solid waste industry, we are deeply concerned about how this bill will affect the landfills and waste-to-energy facilities in the State of Maryland and the jurisdictions that rely on them for management of their solid waste.

Removing methane recovery from landfills and waste-to-energy would be a step backward from the goal of increasing the availability of renewable energy in Maryland and would negatively impact the solid waste infrastructure of the State. As such, an unfavorable report is requested.