

**Testimony Supporting SB0590**  
**Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**  
**February 28, 2023**

**Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

As a resident of District 43 in Baltimore City and as someone who has devoted much of my life to understanding and working on issues of environmental/community justice and sustainability (though I'll note that this testimony is being submitted in my personal capacity and not in any professional role), I am writing to express my **strong support of SB0590, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act**. This bill will make sure that subsidies for renewable energy in our state go to projects that actually lead us to a sustainable world and NOT a more degraded, sickly world by removing three types of energy from our state's Renewable Portfolio Standards – trash incineration, woody biomass, and methane gas from factory farms – all of which exacerbate climate change while harming public health, and none of which are part of a clean energy future.

We are in the midst of an acute climate crisis that threatens all of us, especially in coastal states like Maryland, and we need to be taking any and all actions we can NOW to avert the worst impacts of that crisis. Did you know that the trash incinerator in Baltimore emits twice as much greenhouse gasses per amount of energy produced, on average, as each of the coal plants located in Maryland? If that were all the harm it did, that would be enough reason not to call it “renewable”, but on top of that it's also extremely bad for our air quality and thus our health. Baltimoreans are already suffering compounding environmental injustices that increase suffering and decrease lifespan, and can ill-afford for the state to prop up this private industry that is pumping carcinogens into our skies. It's disgraceful that we are the only state in the nation that somehow considers such a harmful practice on par with wind and solar energy.

For these reasons and many more, please support SB590 and stop sending Maryland's renewable energy money to facilities that emit such enormous amounts of greenhouse gasses while harming our health! Thank you.

Sincerely,

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