

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

As a resident of district 43A and a Maryland taxpayer, I am writing to express my strong support of SB590, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act. This bill will make sure that our subsidies for renewable energy through the Renewable Portfolio Standard are going toward actual renewable energy, not being wasted on things that emit greenhouse gasses. For several decades, researchers have documented the disproportionate effects of the climate crisis on low-income people and people of color. If Maryland wants to be a leader in environmental justice, we cannot afford to be spending our renewable energy money on facilities that pollute. I know that politics move slowly, but environmental destruction doesn't, and we are constantly playing catch up. If we want a sustainable future for Maryland residents, we **MUST** commit to truly renewable energy and subsidize only facilities that are emissions-free. Private industry will continue to prioritize profits over our shared environment and the people who are most harmed by their pollution, but our state government **HAS TO BE BETTER**.

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. Subsidies exist to support the things we want, so why are we subsidizing things we don't want in our communities? Let's put those subsidies toward wind and solar power, and let the waste sector work on managing waste.

Please pass the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act so that those funds can support new wind and solar power instead. Use our tax dollars to encourage creativity and innovation in the energy sector. Become an environmental leader instead of accepting the status quo. Most importantly, show Maryland residents that our state is willing to try new things to support our health and well-being, because residents all over the state have made our commitment clear. Thousands of people have invested in local solutions and alternatives that build environmental health - solar energy, water and land preservation, composting and small farming, and sustainable homes - all that's missing is a state that wants to work with us!

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Raychel Gadson