

Testimony Supporting HB1407

County Tier 1 Renewable Sources – Generating Systems, Capacity, and Generation –
Prohibition, Studies, and Plans

Economic Matters

February 29, 2024

Position: Oppose

Dear Chair C.T. Wilson and Members of the Committee,

As a resident of Maryland concerned with the general welfare of my fellow citizens I am writing in to oppose HB1407.

HB1407 is premature. This legislative session is already considering a bill to remove dirty sources of power that somehow found their way into the Renewable Portfolio Standard as Tier I resources. In order to ensure that only clean, renewable sources of power are included in HB1407, first the dirty sources of power must lose their Tier I RPS status.

The Renewable Portfolio Standard, in its Tier 1 “renewable source” per § 7–701 of the Public Utilities Article, includes not only solar, wind and geothermal – which deserve to be in Tier 1 since these are clean and renewable sources of energy. It unfortunately also includes highly polluting sources: trash incineration (“waste to energy”), woody biomass for energy (including pellet factories, sawmills, thermal biomass systems, and general burning of wood), methane from biogas digesters and even poultry litter to energy. Obviously, none of these are clean sources of energy.

This bill has some positive ideas that could be incorporated into a wider evaluation of Maryland’s energy needs and how those needs can be satisfied in line with the state’s commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions via the Climate Solutions Now Act.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Law