

Reclaim Renewable Energy Act 2024 sign on (HB166/SB146)
Testimony Supporting SB146
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
January 25, 2024

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

My family and I urge you to pass the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (SB146). All of us are Maryland ratepayers. We are fed up with paying subsidies for trash incineration and we know that over half of these subsidies go to out-of-state incinerators. Those of us who have asthma or COPD are only too aware that we are paying for the air pollution that contributes to our own illnesses and to thousands of others.

In difficult economic times, it is unbelievable that Maryland is throwing away many millions of dollars (almost 25 million in 2022) on subsidizing trash incinerators instead of real clean energy sources. Since 2004, the urgency of supporting renewable energy development in Maryland and throughout our grid has only become greater. Maryland must urgently act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and carefully assess how we are spending the state's resources to fight climate change, including the effectiveness of the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) program in delivering long-term decreased emissions and a healthier environment. Trash incineration is not clean, renewable energy and is contradictory to the goals of the RPS.

Maryland state government, climate experts, renewable energy businesses, environmental and environmental justice advocates, and community organizations are united: burning trash is not clean energy, and Maryland must stop subsidizing it through the Renewable Portfolio Standard.