

Zero Waste Montgomery County

Testimony On: SB 146 “Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations”

(Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Position: Support

Date: January 25, 2024

Honorable Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony. I am writing today to encourage you to SUPPORT S.B. 146 - The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024. As a mother of 2 children, we live 9 miles from one of the Incinerators in Montgomery County, Maryland. More than 500 kids, including my children, attend an elementary school located only 6 miles from the incinerator. I volunteer with the Zero Waste Montgomery County and with the MCCPTA Sustainability & Green Schools sub-committee, but at the micro level, there is only so much we can do. This is why, as a researcher and as an enhancer of circularity in local food systems, I'm convinced the biggest shift is propelled by decision makers as you. Enabling genuine investments in clean energy and other programs across sectors to fight climate change, is really crucial for all Maryland's future.

This bill is a chance to reroute existing clean energy subsidies toward emissions-free renewable energy investments technologies. The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024 will remove trash incineration from the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard.

Just recently, I learned that the incinerator in the Agricultural Reserve in Montgomery County existed before the renewable portfolio standard was created, and it's receiving the The Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) subsidy, even if they don't need it! If RPS was established to support and incentivize clean, renewable energy generators, why are Maryland's incinerations receiving renewable energy credits? Marylanders' contributions for clean energy subsidies should be used precisely for: real, clean,

renewable energy that addresses climate change, and is consistent and aligns our incentives with our policy goals.

A truly renewable Portfolio Standard, will also not only benefit our Marylanders but also their local government, allow for incentives consistent with our county climate and clean energy goals as stated. Removing incineration credits will demonstrate that the time, love and effort converged in Maryland's recently-released Climate Pollution Reduction Plan and the Maryland Commission on Climate Change 2023 Annual Report, was not in vain. It will also infuse legitimacy to our state's renewable energy portfolio. Please pass the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act now.

Thank you!

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