



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich  
County Executive

January 24, 2024

TO: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman  
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich  
County Executive

RE: Senate Bill 146 – *Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)*  
Support with Amendments

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I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 146 – *Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)*.

The Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) was established to encourage the development of clean, renewable, domestic sources of electricity generation like wind and solar. This bill will refocus the RPS by removing energy derived from waste from counting as Tier I renewable energy sources. This change will appropriately focus investment dollars on the development of wind and solar resources in our region.

Waste-to-energy is misaligned with the goal of the RPS. These systems are primarily designed to accomplish solid waste management, generating electricity as a by-product. Including waste to-energy as a Tier I resource under Maryland's RPS incentivizes these systems and could slow the development of cleaner and more truly renewable energy sources.

Removing waste-to-energy from RPS eligibility will result in a short-term financial impact to Montgomery County due to the loss of revenue from the sale of renewable energy credits. However, in the long term, this change will make a very meaningful difference toward meeting our climate and zero waste goals.

I am requesting one amendment to create a brief transition period that would help us to avoid further increases in solid waste fees in FY 2025. Delaying the application of the changes to the Tier 1 list until July 1, 2025 would allow us additional time to explore cost savings opportunities that, if identified, could reduce future rate increases. Suggested amendment language is below.

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With the inclusion of this amendment, I respectfully request that the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee give this important bill a favorable report.

cc: Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 146

(First Reading File Bill)

On page 3, in line 24, strike “years” and in the same line strike “January 1, 2024” and substitute “July 1, 2025”.