



PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND

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Testimony on Maryland Senate Bill 146 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the committee

FROM: Eileen Fin, Progressive Maryland Environmental Task Force Member

DATE: January 25, 2024

POSITION: Favorable

Dear Chairman Feldman and members of the committee:

As a Baltimore County, District 8 resident, a Maryland taxpayer, and a member of the Environmental Justice Task Force of Progressive Maryland, I am writing to express my strong support of SB146, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

In our pursuit of a sustainable future, the focus on clean energy sources has become paramount. However, not all methods labeled as "clean" align with the genuine principles of sustainability. According to a new PLOS 2023 study, "trash incinerators have been proven to emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity than any other power source"-including coal. It is crucial for the state to prioritize energy sources that have been proven to be clean and to use our tax dollars to support a future that ensures all Marylanders have clean air and water.

Compounding the environmental and health concerns is the fact that tax dollars are subsidizing trash incineration. This raises ethical questions about the use of public funds to support a practice that contradicts the principles of clean energy and sustainability. Redirecting these subsidies towards genuinely clean and renewable energy sources would not only benefit the environment and public health but also ensure a more responsible use of taxpayer money.

Maryland needs to start investing in more environmentally friendly sources of energy. By fostering a diversified portfolio of renewable energy sources, we can accelerate the transition towards a cleaner and more sustainable energy landscape. Investments in technologies such as solar, wind, and hydropower are not only more environmentally responsible but also contribute to the growth of industries that align with the principles of sustainability.

The exclusion of trash incineration from the clean energy category is a crucial step toward ensuring a sustainable, healthy, and economically responsible future. By redefining our understanding of clean energy, we can prioritize environmentally responsible practices, protect public health, and contribute to the advancement of a circular economy. Policymakers must recognize the true impact of trash

incineration and take decisive action to promote cleaner, greener alternatives that align with our vision for a sustainable world, all while utilizing taxpayer dollars responsibly.

For these reasons, **we respectfully urge a favorable report on SB146.**

Respectfully,

Eileen Finn