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**Bill Title:** HB0220 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025

**Position:** SUPPORT (FAV)

**To:** Economic Matters Committee

**From:** Iman Habib, Climate Policy Analyst, on behalf of Progressive Maryland

**Date:** 02/18/2025

Dear Honorable Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and the members of the Economic Matters Committee,

Progressive Maryland is a nonprofit political organization made up of multiracial and multiethnic working class people aiming to address the climate crisis while eliminating all forms of structural oppression through grassroots organizing. With over 125,000 members and supporters spanning across Baltimore City, Prince George's, Montgomery, Frederick, Harford counties, and the Eastern Shore, Progressive Maryland works to protect and uplift working class Black and Brown communities which are often underserved and overburdened.

Baltimore is home to one of Maryland's two polluting plants, the WIN Waste Wheelabrator Baltimore Refuse Energy Systems Company ("BRESOCO") Incinerator, which is the largest industrial polluter in the city and has contributed to disproportionate negative health outcomes in the predominantly Black and low-income communities of Westport, Mt. Winans, Cherry Hill, Lakeland, Brooklyn and Curtis Bay. Under the current Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), individuals from these communities are unjustly faced with subsidizing an incinerator that deteriorates their health and well-being under the guise of "clean, renewable energy."

For this reason, **Progressive Maryland is pleased to offer favorable testimony in support of [HB0220 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025](#)** which will officially eliminate "waste-to-energy" (i.e. trash incineration) from the Renewable Portfolio Standards list of renewable energy sources that are eligible for Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) and can be subsidized. Trash incineration is not a clean energy source and emits greenhouse gases, toxic elements, and toxic ash into the atmosphere, therefore it does not belong in the RPS list of renewable energy sources eligible for subsidies. Not only will this legislation clarify what sources are considered renewable, but it will also redistribute these RECs toward energy sources that are clean in nature at no additional cost to the state budget.

However, if waste incineration remains in the RPS, it could cost Maryland ratepayers an additional \$200,000,000 in subsidies between 2023 and 2030. Marylanders paid over \$24 million in subsidies to fund waste incineration in 2023 with nearly \$9 million dollars allocated toward subsidizing BRESOCO. Imagine if these funds could have been redirected toward clean, renewable energy sources? Mary Randall, one of Progressive Maryland's Environmental Justice Task Force members who lives in Westport right next to the incinerator stated, "How can something considered clean energy contribute to cancer and asthma? Instead of sending money to the trash incinerator, I would rather send money to truly clean energy like solar panels that do not harm our health." Her sentiment is shared by many members of the community alike and demonstrates communal support toward no longer financing dirty energy. As an



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organization that is committed to uplifting community voices and promoting equitable investment in climate initiatives, Progressive Maryland values our members' sentiment and is in staunch support of HB0220 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025.

Iman Habib

Climate Policy Analyst

Progressive Maryland

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