



Bill Title: SB0010 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025

Position: SUPPORT (FAV)

To: Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

From: Bernard King, Baltimore County Resident and Member of Progressive Maryland

Date: February 11, 2025

Dear Honorable Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and the members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee,

My name is Bernard King, and I am a lifelong Marylander and current resident of Baltimore County. I am writing this letter to express my strong **support for SB0010, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025**. While I live outside Baltimore City, I have seen firsthand how the impacts of trash incineration extend far beyond municipal borders, affecting the health and well-being of entire regions. Facilities like the BRESKO Baltimore incinerator have long burdened nearby communities with high rates of asthma, cancer, pre-term births, and other severe health issues—all caused by the constant stream of pollutants released into our shared air.

The harmful effects of trash incineration are well-documented. A [study commissioned by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#) in 2017 found that fine particulate matter from the BRESKO Baltimore incinerator results in over \$55 million in adverse health effects annually. Burning waste creates dioxins, which the World Health Organization has classified as human carcinogens. These toxins, along with other pollutants like fine particulate matter, damage the immune, endocrine, nervous, and reproductive systems.

It is unacceptable that these facilities—disproportionately located near communities of color—receive subsidies through Maryland’s Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) under the guise of supporting “renewable energy.” The health and environmental costs borne by these communities far outweigh any claimed benefits from this outdated practice. Many affected communities historically lack access to adequate healthcare and financial resources, making it

nearly impossible for residents to address these mounting medical expenses. This is an environmental injustice that we can no longer ignore.

Incinerators are among the dirtiest methods of generating electricity, emitting more greenhouse gases per unit of energy than coal plants. This is not renewable energy, and continuing to define it as such misleads the public and undermines Maryland's progress in addressing climate change. By passing SB0010, Maryland can finally align its policies with the true intent of the Renewable Portfolio Standard—promoting clean, renewable energy sources that do not harm our environment or public health.

SB0010 offers a clear and actionable path forward. By passing this legislation, Maryland can eliminate harmful subsidies, reduce pollution, and redirect resources toward building a cleaner, greener energy future. The time has come to prioritize public health, environmental sustainability, and equity over the profit motives of aging, polluting industries.

Maryland's future depends on bold leadership, and I am counting on you to help create a brighter and healthier tomorrow for all of us. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Bernard King
Resident of Baltimore County