



Bill Title: SB0010 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025

Position: Favorable

To: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and esteemed members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

From: Somya Sharma-Holt, constituent of the 8th district of Maryland

Date: February 11, 2025

My name is Somya Sharma-Holt and I am writing to express my **strong support for SB0010 the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025**. SB0010 will redefine “Tier 1 renewable source” to exclude energy derived from waste. I am strongly in favor of this bill because of the positive health and economic effects it will have on the residents of Baltimore specifically.

There have been organizing efforts to stop the incineration of waste in South Baltimore due to the direct impact on air quality and health issues in the surrounding communities. There are higher rates of respiratory issues, immune issues, and asthma in residents caused by air pollution from incineration BRESCO Waste Incinerator. The majority racial demographic in the south and inner harbor Baltimore area are black and brown people. The health impact of polluted air from greenhouse gases disproportionately impacts working communities of color, which perpetuates systematic racial inequalities. This bill is an important first step in Maryland taking greater climate action in phasing out burning trash for energy and will reduce pollution from the incinerator which will promote cleaner air.

It's up to us to work together to take this step to make Maryland closer to a climate-conscious state that relies on clean, renewable energy. This bill will create an opportunity for a positive domino effect on the state. Once there are barriers to waste incineration, local governments will need to put energy towards more environmentally conscious waste management systems.

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and esteemed members of the Committee if you want a progressive culture that looks out for impacted communities and the environment, **I urge a favorable report on SB0010**. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Somya Sharma-Holt

Resident of Maryland