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- Bill number_Organization_YourName_Position

Bill Title: SB10 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Position: Favorable

To: Chair Feldman, Vice chair Kagan, Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

From: SirJames Weaver, Progressive Maryland Community Organizer

Date: 2/11/25

Thank you for allowing me to present my testimony in favor of SB10, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (RREA) of 2025. I am SirJames, a resident of Baltimore city and the Environmental Justice Organizer for Progressive Maryland. Our organization is a statewide advocacy group dedicated to empowering working-class communities throughout Maryland.

In my role, I have had the privilege of engaging with hundreds of frontline community members in South Baltimore. A significant number were unaware that their electricity bills were contributing to the funding of an incinerator that has negatively impacted their community.

From 2012 to 2022, electricity bills paid by Maryland ratepayers contributed over \$100 million to incineration efforts.¹ These funds ought to be directed towards genuine renewable energy sources like solar, geothermal, and hydro power. This aligns with the original intent of Maryland's renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

According to the Public Service Commission's 2022 report on Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS), energy companies allocated significant funds to acquire Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) from three incinerators. Specifically, they invested \$8,776,070 for 382,233 RECs from the Montgomery County incinerator, \$4,203,999 for 183,101 RECs from Wheelabrator in Baltimore, and \$11,733,532 for 511,045 RECs from Covanta Fairfax.²

As a ratepayer, I am disenchanted by this high level of financial exploitation, and it is clear that incineration has clearly become a financial liability to our state's RPS. Once incineration is removed from RPS more REC's would go to support clean energy projects. The writing is clearly on the wall, it's time to pass the RREA and remove incineration from RPS.

¹ "Report: Maryland's energy subsidies are going up in flames." peer.org. Last modified March 5, 2024. <https://peer.org/report-maryland-energy-subsidies-in-flames/>.

² "Report: Maryland's energy subsidies are going up in flames." peer.org. Last modified March 5, 2024. <https://peer.org/report-maryland-energy-subsidies-in-flames/>.