



SB10

Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)

Testimony before the Education, Energy, and the Environment

Hearing February 13, 2025

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Feldman and Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the committee, my name is Peter Alexander, and I represent the 900+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today **in support of SB10**. We appreciate the leadership of Senate President Ferugson, and Senators Lewis-Young, and Simonaire for sponsoring this important legislation.

This can keeps getting kicked down the road.

The RPS is an important tool to support clean, renewable energy development and decrease emissions from the electricity sector, but trash incineration should not be subsidized, especially with a fiscally tight State budget. Worse, \$11.7 million of the \$24.7 million subsidy paid in 2022 to burn trash went to the ReWorld trash incinerator in VIRGINIA that received 40% of the programs RPS credits.

This makes no sense when valuable programs are getting cut to tighten our state budget.

Subsidizing this seemingly renewable material takes money away from real renewable energy programs and drives waste markets toward the worst methods of waste management. Simply put, subsidizing trash incineration is counter-productive and hurts ratepayers here in Maryland. Subsidies exist to support the things we want, so why are we subsidizing things we don't want?

Passing the **Reclaim Renewable Energy Act** is a no-cost bill in the state budget, will better prioritize the money we already spend, and is a consumer protection measure that will not increase utilities costs to Maryland ratepayers.

It's time to stop kicking this can and enact this important alteration to the RPS. Let's put RPS subsidies toward wind and solar power, and let the waste sector work on managing waste.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

Peter Alexander, PhD
District 9A
Woodbine, MD 21797