

Bill Title: SB0010 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025

Position: SUPPORT (FAV)

To: Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

From: Walkiria Pool, CEO on behalf of Centro de Apoyo Familiar

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

Centro de Apoyo Familiar is submitting this **testimony in support of [SB0010](#) The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (RREA) of 2025**. We are a non-profit organization that transforms communities through economic, social and educational empowerment in collaboration with community and faith-based organizations. Our membership consists of CAF's Connectors Network, which includes over 500 faith-based organizations engaged through the CCN Connectors training program. This program provides faith leaders with clear direction on developing successful community initiatives, raising awareness, and empowering families by connecting them to diverse resources for the development of functional families and sustainable communities. We are mainly located in Maryland, Washington D.C, Virginia, Massachusetts, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic. Additionally, CAF is affiliated with many organizations across the U.S, along with nearby countries such as Guatemala, Venezuela, Mexico, and El Salvador. We seek to uplift and advocate for working class communities of color who are adversely impacted by environmental justice issues all across Maryland.

In Baltimore, communities living in proximity to the Wheelabrator Baltimore Refuse Energy Systems Company ("BRESKO") Incinerator continue to disproportionately suffer from adverse health outcomes. Under Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), "waste-to-energy," (i.e. trash incineration) is listed as a renewable resource eligible for Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) which are tax subsidized. This means that Marylanders, specifically impacted Baltimorean communities, are actively financing BRESKO which is contributing to their own deterioration. Trash incineration releases thousands of tons of greenhouse gases, toxic elements such as lead and mercury, and toxic ash into the atmosphere. The 2024 PEER Report on the RPS concluded that if "waste-to-energy" remains in the list of renewable energy sources, it will cost Maryland taxpayers an additional \$200,000,000 of RECs between 2023 and 2030. Maryland constituents, especially those that are underserved and overburdened, should not be financially contributing to their own demise.

Passage of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act will:

1. Remove trash incineration from the list of renewable energy sources eligible for RECs without shutting down incinerators in Maryland and with no additional cost to the state budget;
2. Redistribute the subsidy that would have otherwise been used to fund waste incineration to cleaner sources of energy such as solar, wind, and hydro; and
3. Advance the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)'s Climate Pollution Reduction Plan which aims to modify definitions of qualifying resources that are eligible for tax subsidies under the RPS in order to achieve the 2031 greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal.

This will ensure that Marylanders, specifically those that are low-income and minorities, are no longer financing investment into dirty energy sources that are not clean in nature and negatively impact public

health. As an organization that transforms communities through economic, social and educational empowerment in collaboration with community and faith-based organizations, and serves as a voice for working class communities of color, Centro de Apoyo Familiar is enthusiastic to offer support for SB0010.

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