



PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND

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**Testimony Supporting Maryland Senate Bill SB10
Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations
(Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)**

TO: Chair Feldman, and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Janay Fenner, Communications Coordinator at Progressive Maryland

DATE: February 11, 2025

POSITION: Favorable

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my **strong support for SB0010 the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025**. My name is Janay Fenner, and I am a lifelong Baltimore resident and the Communications Coordinator for Progressive Maryland. I love my city deeply, but I cannot ignore the reality of the air pollution that surrounds us. I suffer from asthma, and like so many others in my community, I feel the effects of our polluted air every day. It is impossible to walk through Baltimore without noticing the impact that the BRESCO trash incinerator has on our air and our health. It is even more impossible to accept that this private incinerator receives tens of millions of dollars in subsidies while it continues to poison the very communities that live in its shadow.

The people of Baltimore-especially South Baltimore-wake up every day knowing that toxic chemicals are being pumped into the air we breathe. These are communities that have been historically overburdened by environmental injustice, forced to bear the consequences of decisions made without their well-being in mind. And yet, Maryland continues to subsidize this pollution, sending public funds to a privately owned incinerator that emits greenhouse gases and air pollution into predominantly Black and working-class neighborhoods.

By continuing to direct millions of dollars in subsidies to trash incineration under the Renewable Portfolio Standard, Maryland undermines the very purpose of this program and backtracks on its commitments to reducing emissions under the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022. The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act is a necessary step to clean up Maryland's RPS and ensure that our renewable energy subsidies support actual clean energy like wind, solar, and other non-emitting, non-combustible resources.

I have no problem with my utility dollars going to truly renewable energy sources, knowing that they are improving my city and protecting future generations. But burning trash for energy is a dirty, harmful practice that does not belong in our clean energy portfolio. The fact that our communities are expected to tolerate this pollution while our public dollars fund it is unacceptable.

I urge the members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee to demonstrate that you care about making our air cleaner, our environment healthier, and our communities safer by passing the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Janay Fenner