

Dear **Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,**

I am a resident of **District 46**. I am in alliance with my neighbors in South Baltimore who have long been negligently or cruelly poisoned by coal, lead, industrial waste, and *burning trash*. I am an expectant new father and community member of Canton, which is not so far away from these hazards as we would like to think, and who desperately needs a sustainable world where we can properly provide energy renewably for all. This testimony is being submitted in collaboration with Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. It is also in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition, and I have been in contact and support of Progressive Maryland on this issue. **I am testifying in support of SB0010.**

Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard is intended to incentivize the conversion of more of our power grid to clean, renewable energy like wind and solar. Yet instead, a substantial amount of renewable energy credits come from burning trash: a method of energy generation that, far from being clean, fills the air with toxic pollutants, often in areas inhabited by the poor and marginalized who have limited ability to do anything about it. Instead of encouraging electricity providers to source more of their power from green sources and fostering the growth of renewable energy industries, Maryland is simply subsidizing a polluting industry at no benefit to the public.

Burning trash should never have been labeled a renewable energy source in the first place, and it is a shame and an embarrassment that year after year, we have continued this giveaway to trash incinerators in lieu of simply fixing this obvious and easily-resolvable flaw in the law. Now, when the budget crisis is forcing us to look closely at the value we are getting for every expenditure, is the perfect opportunity to make this change.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0010 - the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025** (Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations).

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

**John Preston Ford**

**529 S East Ave, Baltimore, MD 21224**