



Committee: Education, Energy and the Environment
Testimony on: SB0010 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible
Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)
Organization: Climate Justice Wing of the Maryland Legislative Coalition
Submitting: Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 13, 2024

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025 (SB010). The Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of nearly 30 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on SB010.

SB010 will clean up the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) by retaining subsidies for truly renewable energy sources and removing subsidies for a problematic dirty energy source, i.e., trash incineration. As Maryland moves aggressively toward meeting its ambitious greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals, we need to align all available incentives toward renewable sources of energy and stop incentivizing polluting sources like trash incineration.

Trash incineration was only added to Tier 1 of the RPS in 2011, making it part of the same subsidized category as wind and solar. Maryland needs to stop wasting money subsidizing trash incineration, especially considering that the subsidies from Maryland's RPS have grown from \$11.5 million in 2020 to \$24.3 million in 2023; i.e., a total of \$75.4 million in 4 years. Just think where we would be if these funds had gone to truly renewable energy sources – we would be closer to meeting our GHG reduction goals.

The Maryland Commission on Climate Change and Governor Moore agree. The Governor's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, released in December 2023, included recommendations to remove trash incineration from the RPS. We must put our money where our mouth is by focusing on wind and solar energy.

Finally, it is important to acknowledge that trash incineration is not “clean energy” and does not belong in the RPS. In 2015, the Baltimore incinerator emitted on average about twice as much GHG per unit energy produced as each of the coal plants located in Maryland. In addition, air pollution from waste incinerators increase the risk of pre-term births, cancers of the blood and

lung, and emergency room visits. According to a Chesapeake Bay Foundation commissioned study, fine particulate matter emitted from the Baltimore “waste-to-energy” facility causes over \$55 million in adverse health effects annually.

The Climate Justice Wing supports policies that benefit overburdened and underserved communities, which have historically sustained disproportionate environmental harm. The South Baltimore communities closest to the incinerator are truly overburdened by multiple pollution sources, including the incinerator. This polluting source of energy should not be receiving a renewable energy subsidy intended to promote the generation of clean and healthy renewable energy.

By removing trash incineration from the RPS, Maryland will better direct its subsidies to the truly renewable energy sources of the future. We strongly support SB010 and urge a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.

350MoCo
Adat Shalom Climate Action
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry
Chesapeake Earth Holders
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
Climate Parents of Prince George's
Climate Reality Project
ClimateXChange – Rebuild Maryland Coalition
Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County
Echotopia
Elders Climate Action
Fix Maryland Rail
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
Greenbelt Climate Action Network
HoCoClimateAction
IndivisibleHoCoMD
Maryland Legislative Coalition
Mobilize Frederick
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Mountain Maryland Movement
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
Progressive Maryland
Safe & Healthy Playing Fields
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
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