Testimony Supporting SB10 Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee February 13, 2025

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

As a resident with asthma of district 7 and member of The Sunrise Movement, I am writing to express my strong support of SB10, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

We need to be funding renewable energy development and taking the climate crisis seriously. The RPS is an important tool to support clean, renewable energy development and decrease emissions from the electricity sector, and it's important to ensure that our money is being invested wisely. Maryland absolutely must not leave trash incineration in the mix- it will compound the damage to local governments' transition away from trash incineration and make Maryland's Clean Energy. We won't truly reach 100% clean energy if polluters like trash incineration are in the mix. Spending our renewable energy subsidies on trash incineration doesn't get Maryland clean energy, it doesn't put more energy on the grid, and it doesn't even keep energy on the grid - all of the incinerators profiting from Maryland's RPS operated for decades before starting to get this subsidy.

As I stated, I have asthma. Within the past two months I have had to change inhalers over four times and have continued to struggle to breathe despite my doctors trying other medications. Not only this, but my children both have asthma as well that has been worsening and more than me, their oxygen is my top priority. I want them to enjoy our lives in Baltimore and get to play outside freely without fear of their ability to breathe being even more hindered. They've watched me struggle these past months and I have been deeply afraid them.