

Testimony Supporting SB10
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
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Position: SUPPORT

Members of the Committee,

As a lifelong, 64 years, Maryland resident and ratepayer I plead with you to pass SB10, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

First, subsidies should do no harm.

Second, subsidies should be used for their intended purpose.

Third, \$24 Million per year paid to incinerator operators should have been invested in truly clean, renewable energy—municipal waste incineration is neither—and it is also one of the most expensive ways to generate electricity.

Fourth, the incinerator operators have testified they don't need the subsidies to remain profitable.

Fifth, we need a just transition to clean energy NOW. Subsidizing polluting, expensive electricity generation over clean alternatives is NOT part of that transition and is NOT part of our zero waste future.

Sixth, it is systemically racist to disinvest in clean energy in South Baltimore (solar, storage) in favor of wasted investments in polluting, expensive energy.

I live 3.5 miles from the WinWaste incinerator and I see the smoke coming my way sometimes and I am not happy paying for subsidies that directly harm me—it's quite basic. There are no fact-based, science-based, or economically-based arguments that can be made for subsidizing dirty, harmful, and expensive waste solutions as 'renewable' energy.

Here is the deceptive prompt being circulated by WinWaste in the community right now:

"Dear elected official,

I am writing to express my opposition to SB10/HB220. My electric bill is at an all time high because our state can't produce enough energy. This bill sends money from a good, clean Maryland essential service provider and sends it to out of state landfills in Illinois, Ohio and Kentucky. So why are you support legislation that would hurt a local energy producer that also gives millions back to our community? Every dollar counts and we shouldn't be sending more money to out-of-state energy producers and raising our bills even more.

SB10/HB220 won't make Baltimore cleaner, and it won't make Baltimore healthier. It will simply lead to less in state energy production and lead to higher bills for families like mine.

SB10/HB220 will undermine the working-class families our legislators are supposed to be looking out for. Please reject SB10/HB220."

SB10 does NOT stop the incinerators from operating; it has NO impact on the state budget; it has NO impact on ratepayers other than diverting subsidies to clean energy that WILL reduce rates over time; Winwaste-produced energy is the most expensive, dirtiest energy we could possibly buy. Winwaste is NOT a local company and these subsidies, except for a minimal amount invested in public relations, go right OUT of our state.

Please do not vote to subsidize a deceiving, profiteering polluter. Please.