



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AFL-CIO

7 School Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2096

Balto. (410) 269-1940 • Fax (410) 280-2956

President

Donna S. Edwards

Secretary-Treasurer

Gerald W. Jackson

SB 10 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)

Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

February 13, 2025

OPPOSE

Donna S. Edwards

President

Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to SB 10. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 300,000 union members in the state of Maryland, I offer the following comments.

Waste-to-energy (WTE) is a clean, local, efficient, and economical form of renewable baseload energy production and post-recycled waste disposal that helps Maryland divert waste from landfills while producing energy to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. By reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills, WTE plays an essential role in Maryland's efforts to curb emissions. SB 10 ignores the significant environmental, economic and public health benefits that WTE facilities provide to our communities and negatively impacts local governments and residents who rely on these facilities for waste management and clean energy production.

Montgomery County's WTE plant alone generates enough electricity to power 30,000 homes for a year, which is the equivalent to powering 75,000 cars for a year. Removing WTE from Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) as a Tier 1 renewable source would cost the county millions of dollars resulting in an increase in taxes for residents and businesses. Additionally, they will be forced to divert more waste to landfills which would need hundreds of trash trucks, exacerbating environmental concerns.

The process of converting waste into energy is a key part of an integrated materials management plan that focuses on waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and recovery of energy. WTE plants provide significant contributions to Maryland's economy—the revenues, employment, and labor earnings derived from managing waste, producing energy, and recycling metals are the direct economic benefits of WTE.

Employees at these plants are highly skilled, earning competitive wages that support families and local communities while simultaneously infusing dollars into local economies through the purchase of local goods and services.

Eliminating WTE from Maryland's RPS would jeopardize these stable, long-term jobs and weaken the economic viability of those that rely on them. SB 10 disrupts Maryland's progress toward sustainable waste management and would increase landfill waste, raise costs for residents, and eliminate high-quality jobs.

For these reasons, we strongly urge an unfavorable vote on SB 10.