

Committee: **Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment**

Hearing date: **February 13, 2025**

Re: **SB10 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act**

Position: **FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB10 — the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

As a resident of Frederick County, I became familiar with the air quality and financial problems with trash incineration many years ago when our County considered hosting an incinerator project in our County. After learning about these issues, the idea that our state would subsidize trash incineration as a Tier One source of clean energy in our Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) is unacceptable.

Our state has set out admirably ambitious climate goals, which include increasing solar and wind power as sources of energy throughout the state. But if our RPS continues to include the ability for utilities to gain clean energy credits by buying energy generated from trash incinerators, we are not truly incentivizing support for actual clean energy sources.

And we ratepayers are spending *so much* to subsidize trash incineration! In the past 4 years, we have spent \$75 million in subsidies that went to trash incinerators.

If SB10 passes, Renewable Energy Credit funds will be redirected to renewable energy sources like wind and solar that will not release pollutants and GHG emissions. The three trash incinerators subsidized by Maryland's RPS emitted 2.5 million tons of CO2 into the atmosphere, as well as mercury, lead, particulate matter 2.5 and 10, sulfur dioxide, nitrous oxide, and carbon monoxide, according to the EPA's Emissions Inventory (2020).

Please support subsidizing REAL renewable energy by issuing a favorable report on SB10, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

Thank you for your consideration.

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