

PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND

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Bill Title: SB10 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Position: Favorable

To: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

From: Imani Harvill, Member of Progressive Maryland

Date: 2/11/25

To the Members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee:

I am writing to you at this time to address trash incineration as a standard practice for renewable energy and to express my support surrounding the introduction of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act. As a lifelong resident of Maryland, growing up in District 46's South Baltimore Cherry Hill neighborhood, I have a deep love for Baltimore City and for the State of Maryland as a whole. So much so, that I returned to Cherry Hill with my family in 2017 to remain proud members of the Cherry Hill community and dedicated residents of Baltimore City. Despite this history, it was only last year that I was informed of the concerning environmental and health issues greatly impacting South Baltimore, as well as other communities throughout Maryland, made possible through the work of Progressive Maryland's Environmental Justice Task Force. Since then, I have been keeping myself engaged with helping to support efforts to significantly decrease air pollution through an increase in the State of Maryland's use of truly green renewable energy sources.

One of the most concerning bits of information I have learned about trash incineration is the fact that Maryland residents have been footing the bill for its practice for quite some time. Already Maryland residents have spent over 100 million dollars subsidizing waste to energy as a renewable energy source through utility bill payments. I am appalled just thinking about the amount of money I and my fellow residents have wasted paying for a renewable energy source that is not truly green and that has been touted as releasing toxic elements into the air that residents have been breathing in daily over the last few decades. To add to this, Maryland residents have recently experienced an egregious increase in their utility bills, making residents have to bear an even greater cost to fund waste incineration.

The State of Maryland also finds itself in a very precarious financial situation. Right now Maryland faces a 3 billion dollar deficit along with an alarming, ever decreasing population. It is imperative that the state proceeds with fiscal caution and responsibility in a way that does not overburden its already dwindling communities. That is why I am supporting SB10. Maryland and its residents deserve a fighting chance. Now is the time to do what is best for Maryland. Because of this, I am strongly urging the Senate to act now and support the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

Sincerely, Imani Harvill



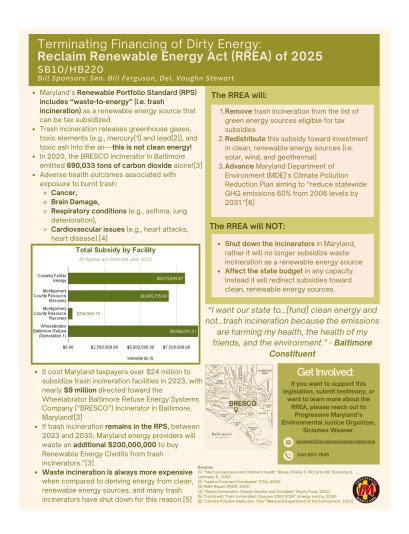
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Sources

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 $\frac{https://www.thebaltimorebanner.com/community/local-news/moving-out-of-maryland-census-dawa-resulting the following and the substitution of the$