

**Testimony Supporting SB0010**  
**Senate Education Energy & the Environment Committee**  
**February 13, 2025**

**Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Members of the Committee,

As a Maryland energy ratepayer, Baltimore City resident, and a person increasingly affected by the climate crisis, I am writing to urge your support of **SB0010, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025**.

The RPS should not be a bonus revenue stream for facilities that send hundreds of thousands of tons of greenhouse gasses into the air, along with pollution that directly harms human health. It's infuriating to be reminded this is exactly what's happening every time I drive south on Russell Street or north on I-95 and see the smoke billowing from the BRESCO incinerator. Trash incineration:

- produces more greenhouse gasses per unit of electricity than any other power source, including coal, oil and gas. Baltimore's incinerator alone produces at least 640,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year
- siphons millions in energy ratepayer dollars meant for clean wind and solar, does *not* increase renewable energy outputs to the grid, and *adds to*, rather than reducing, greenhouse gas emissions.

WIN Waste and Covanta testify their incinerators prevent methane emissions from landfill. The EPA's current Waste Management Hierarchy makes it plain: The better way to reduce methane emissions from landfill is to prevent food and other organic materials from reaching the landfill in the first place, and composting the rest. Right now, laws to divert organic materials from landfill are already having a measurable impact in Maryland, reducing the total volume of organic waste in our landfills and incinerators.

Please challenge the lobbyists' and industry reps' unfounded claims that removing trash incineration from the RPS will send energy prices "sky-high," as they have publicly claimed. As you know, the Department of Legislative Services concludes this bill would have zero impact on the state budget and very little, if any, on our energy bills. The climate crisis itself is by far the single greatest threat to prosperity for all. It's time to stop wasting Maryland ratepayers' dollars rewarding greenhouse gas emitters, and clean up our RPS.

I urge you to give SB0010, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act, a FAVORABLE report.

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