

**Bill Title:** SB10 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

**Position:** Favorable

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

**From:** Charles Shafer on behalf of the Baltimore Ethical Society

**Date:** 2/11/25

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB10, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (RREA) of 2025.

I am the co-chair of the Ethical Action Committee of the Baltimore Ethical Society, a humanist religion. We subscribe to a rational philosophy informed by science, inspired by art, and motivated by compassion. We believe in the worth and potential of all human beings. Since science clearly demonstrates the harm done to the people of our state by incineration facilities and the superiority of cleaner energy facilities, we urge you to favorably report SB10.

The Bresco incinerator itself has emitted and continues to emit chemicals causing cancer, brain damage, asthma, heart disease and asthma to large numbers of Maryland citizens. Moreover, this harm disproportionately affected nearby and predominantly Black neighborhoods in South Baltimore, including Cherry Hill, Brooklyn, Westport, and Mount Winans.

The State of Maryland has recognized the need to increase the use of renewable energy sources. We provide tax subsidies to energy producers meeting “Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards.” Clearly wind, solar, geothermal and hydro power are renewable sources. Yet inexplicably trash incineration is still included as a subsidized renewable energy source. Thus, Maryland taxpayers pay over \$20 million a year to subsidize trash incineration facilities and we encourage energy suppliers to buy incineration produced energy. This all happens even though incineration costs more than truly renewable energy sources and causes so much grievous harm.

It is time that renewable energy tax subsidies be denied to trash incineration. These funds ought to be directed towards energy sources that are genuinely renewable. This change complies with the original intent of the law, helps Maryland meet its clean energy goals and improves the health of Marylanders. And remember that SB10 does not require shutting down incinerators or increasing the state budget. It only redirects tax subsidies already allocated.

So, you don’t have to be a humanist to agree with us that science and compassion compel you to demonstrate that you value the worth, dignity and well-being of our citizens by supporting and reporting favorably SB10.