

Aaron Knishkowsky SB10 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Aaron Knishkowsky

Position: FAV



PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND

P.O. Box 7595, Largo MD 20792

ProgressiveMaryland.org

Info@progressivemaryland.org

Bill Title: SB10 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Position: Favorable

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

From: Aaron Knishkowsky, Member of Progressive Maryland

Date: 2/11/25

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB10, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (RREA) of 2025. My name is Aaron Knishkowsky, and I am a proud member of Progressive Maryland, which is a statewide advocacy group that builds power in working-class communities in Maryland. I volunteer with Progressive Maryland's Environmental Justice Task Force, a team that engages in grassroots organizing in South Baltimore and has focused on the RREA for several years.

I first learned about the public health and environmental impacts of Baltimore's Bresco Incinerator a year and a half ago as a student at the University of Maryland. I had previously been unaware that the electricity bills of everyone in the state have contributed to the financial gain of incinerator operators thanks to a program that was designed to reward the production of clean and healthy renewable energy.

From 2012 to 2022, electricity bills paid by Maryland ratepayers contributed over \$100 million to incineration efforts.¹ These funds ought to be directed towards genuine renewable energy sources like solar, geothermal, and hydro power. This aligns with the original intent of Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS).

As a ratepayer, I am furious about this state-sanctioned form of financial exploitation. Ratepayers should not be subsidizing an industry that has caused cancer and asthma in frontline communities. Incineration is in clear contradiction to the original intent of the RPS, and must be removed. Once incineration is removed from the RPS, ratepayer dollars will support truly clean energy projects. The writing is on the wall: it's time to pass the RREA and remove incineration from the RPS.

¹ "Report: Maryland's energy subsidies are going up in flames." [peer.org](https://peer.org/report-maryland-energy-subsidies-in-flames/). Last modified March 5, 2024.
<https://peer.org/report-maryland-energy-subsidies-in-flames/>.

SB10 - Reclaim Renewable Energy Act - Testimony.pdf

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Position: FAV

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Zionist Organization of America
Baltimore District

Written Testimony

Senate Bill 10 – Reclaim Renewable Energy Act
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee – February 13, 2025
Support

Background: Senate Bill 10 would alter the definition of a "Tier 1 renewable source" to exclude energy derived from waste and refuse from being eligible for inclusion in the renewable energy portfolio standard, effective January 1, 2025.

Written Comments: The Jewish concept of *tikkun olam* means to repair the world in which we live. As the advocacy arm of The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore, we represent organizations that work to educate the community on sustainability and make strides towards repairing the world. One of these entities is The Pearlstone Center in Reisterstown, MD, a conference center and farm that employs and teaches sustainable practices.

Trash incineration is a very polluting method of producing electricity. A new 2023 study in PLOS Climate found that "incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity produced than any other power source" - including coal plants. Maryland needs to show its residents that they are a priority, by funding renewable energy development that shows we are taking the climate and public health crises in our state seriously.

This legislation is an important tool to support clean, renewable energy development and decrease emissions from the electricity sector. By tightening the belt and choosing to no longer subsidize trash incineration as a form of renewable energy, you will show your commitment to public health; protect taxpayer dollars; and improve the trajectory of the impact on our environment.

For these reasons, the Baltimore Jewish Council asks for a favorable report on SB10.

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.

ALA_MD_Reclaim Testimony_Senate EEE_ 2-10-25.pdf

Uploaded by: Aleks Casper

Position: FAV



February 10, 2025
House Bill 220/Senate Bill 10
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Support

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025, House Bill 220 and Senate Bill 10. The American Lung Association is the oldest voluntary public health organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease, through research, education and advocacy.

The American Lung Association in Maryland supports modifying the state's renewable energy requirements to exclude waste and refuse derived energy, given the public health benefits of phasing out combustion energy sources. By excluding these forms of combustion energy sources that worsen air pollution, Maryland can prioritize policies that meaningfully reduce criteria air pollutants, curb greenhouse gas emissions and ultimately protect the health and well-being of Marylanders in the long term.

Energy derived from waste and refuse contributes toward worse air pollution. Burning fuels besides fossil fuels, such as biomass or trash, produces harmful air pollutants including particulate matter and carbon dioxide that drives climate change, and can also produce additional harmful air pollutants and toxics.

The American Lung Association's [2024 "State of the Air"](#) report found that two counties received a failing grade for high ozone pollution, with another four counties receiving a 'C' or lower.

Ozone ("smog") and particle ("soot") pollutants can intensify symptoms of existing lung disease, such as asthma attacks and emergency room visits in the short term. Long term exposure to air pollution can interfere with lung development for babies and children and can contribute to the development of new diseases (asthma, cancer, chronic inflammatory lung disease and diabetes) and can lead to cognitive impairments later in life. Children and the elderly are more susceptible to these health impacts. Currently in Maryland, 80,837 adults and 504,338 children are currently living with asthma, and another 242,664 are managing other lung illnesses, increasing their vulnerability to the aforementioned impacts of air pollution.

Additionally, reducing greenhouse gas emissions causing climate change is similarly imperative to lung health. This is because climate change is making the job of cleaning our air much more difficult, as temperatures rise and drive conditions for unhealthy ozone pollution days, among other health challenges.



Adoption of the policies such as the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act are critical steps in reducing ozone-forming emissions, particle emissions and greenhouse gas emissions to protect the health of Marylanders now and in the future.

Prioritizing non-pollution sources of energy will provide Maryland with significant health benefits. The Lung Association's "[Zeroing In on Healthy Air](#)" report found that a transition to 100% clean, non-combustion electricity, coupled with zero-emission transportation, would provide Maryland with \$27.8 billion in public health savings and avoid 2,530 premature deaths, 63,600 asthma attacks and 315,000 lost work days.

I respectfully urge a supportive vote for the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025 for the benefits of reduction toxic air pollution and improving the lung health, particularly for protecting our most vulnerable populations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Aleks Casper".

Aleks Casper
Director of Advocacy
American Lung Association in Maryland

Alice Goldberg - RREA Written Testimony 2025.pdf

Uploaded by: Alice Goldberg

Position: FAV



PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND

P.O. Box 7595, Largo MD 20792

ProgressiveMaryland.org

Info@progressivemaryland.org

Bill Title: SB10 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Position: Favorable

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

From: Alice Goldberg, Member of Progressive Maryland

Date: 2/11/25

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB10, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (RREA) of 2025. My name is Alice Goldberg, a proud member of Progressive Maryland, which is a statewide advocacy group that builds power in working-class communities in Maryland.

As a Maryland resident, I was previously unaware of how my electricity bill supported the financial gain of toxic incineration facilities across the state, particularly the Bresco incinerator. For four decades, this facility has emitted harmful chemicals that have disproportionately affected predominantly Black neighborhoods in South Baltimore, including Cherry Hill, Brooklyn, Westport, and Mount Winans, resulting in elevated rates of asthma and cancer.

From 2012 to 2022, electricity bills paid by Maryland ratepayers contributed over \$100 million to incineration efforts.¹ These funds ought to be directed towards genuine renewable energy sources like solar, geothermal, and hydro power. This aligns with the original intent of Maryland's renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

According to the Public Service Commission's 2022 report on Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS), energy companies allocated significant funds to acquire Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) from three incinerators. Specifically, they invested \$8,776,070 for 382,233 RECs from the Montgomery County incinerator, \$4,203,999 for 183,101 RECs from Wheelabrator in Baltimore, and \$11,733,532 for 511,045 RECs from Covanta Fairfax.²

¹ "Report: Maryland's energy subsidies are going up in flames." peer.org. Last modified March 5, 2024. <https://peer.org/report-maryland-energy-subsidies-in-flames/>.

² "Report: Maryland's energy subsidies are going up in flames." peer.org. Last modified March 5, 2024. <https://peer.org/report-maryland-energy-subsidies-in-flames/>.

As a ratepayer, I am disenchanted by this high level of financial exploitation, and it is clear that incineration has clearly become a financial liability to our state's RPS. Once incineration is removed from RPS more REC's would go to support clean energy projects. The writing is clearly on the wall, it's time to pass the RREA and remove incineration from RPS.

Thank you for your support of this needed legislation,

Alice Goldberg

Alice Goldberg

SB0010 - Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.pdf

Uploaded by: Alicia Pereschuk

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition. I am a resident of District 43. **I am testifying in support of SB0010.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard is intended to incentivize the conversion of more of our power grid to clean, renewable energy like wind and solar. Yet instead, a substantial amount of renewable energy credits come from burning trash: a method of energy generation that, far from being clean, fills the air with toxic pollutants, often in areas inhabited by the poor and marginalized who have limited ability to do anything about it. Instead of encouraging electricity providers to source more of their power from green sources and fostering the growth of renewable energy industries, Maryland is simply subsidizing a polluting industry at no benefit to the public.

Burning trash should never have been labeled a renewable energy source in the first place, and it is a shame and an embarrassment that year after year, we have continued this giveaway to trash incinerators in lieu of simply fixing this obvious and easily-resolvable flaw in the law. Now, when the budget crisis is forcing us to look closely at the value we are getting for every expenditure, is the perfect opportunity to make this change.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0010 - the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025** (Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations).

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Alicia Pereschuk
319 Homeland Southway
Baltimore MD 21212
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

SB10 Testimony - Andrew Hinz.pdf

Uploaded by: Andrew Hinz

Position: FAV

Testimony Supporting SB10
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
February 11, 2025

Andrew Hinz
1427 Park Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21217
ahinz61@outlook.com
443-617-4079

Position: SUPPORT

Members of the Committee,

As a lifelong, 64 years, Maryland resident and ratepayer I plead with you to pass SB10, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

First, subsidies should do no harm.

Second, subsidies should be used for their intended purpose.

Third, \$24 Million per year paid to incinerator operators should have been invested in truly clean, renewable energy—municipal waste incineration is neither—and it is also one of the most expensive ways to generate electricity.

Fourth, the incinerator operators have testified they don't need the subsidies to remain profitable.

Fifth, we need a just transition to clean energy NOW. Subsidizing polluting, expensive electricity generation over clean alternatives is NOT part of that transition and is NOT part of our zero waste future.

Sixth, it is systemically racist to disinvest in clean energy in South Baltimore (solar, storage) in favor of wasted investments in polluting, expensive energy.

I live 3.5 miles from the WinWaste incinerator and I see the smoke coming my way sometimes and I am not happy paying for subsidies that directly harm me—it's quite basic. There are no fact-based, science-based, or economically-based arguments that can be made for subsidizing dirty, harmful, and expensive waste solutions as 'renewable' energy.

Here is the deceptive prompt being circulated by WinWaste in the community right now:

"Dear elected official,

I am writing to express my opposition to SB10/HB220. My electric bill is at an all time high because our state can't produce enough energy. This bill sends money from a good, clean Maryland essential service provider and sends it to out of state landfills in Illinois, Ohio and Kentucky. So why are you support legislation that would hurt a local energy producer that also gives millions back to our community? Every dollar counts and we shouldn't be sending more money to out-of-state energy producers and raising our bills even more.

SB10/HB220 won't make Baltimore cleaner, and it won't make Baltimore healthier. It will simply lead to less in state energy production and lead to higher bills for families like mine.

SB10/HB220 will undermine the working-class families our legislators are supposed to be looking out for. Please reject SB10/HB220."

SB10 does NOT stop the incinerators from operating; it has NO impact on the state budget; it has NO impact on ratepayers other than diverting subsidies to clean energy that WILL reduce rates over time; Winwaste-produced energy is the most expensive, dirtiest energy we could possibly buy. Winwaste is NOT a local company and these subsidies, except for a minimal amount invested in public relations, go right OUT of our state.

Please do not vote to subsidize a deceiving, profiteering polluter. Please.

SB10 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Angela Clark

Position: FAV



PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND

P.O. Box 7595, Largo MD 20792

ProgressiveMaryland.org

Info@progressivemaryland.org

2/13/2024

Testimony in Support of SB10 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

To: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the committee.

From: Angela Clark, Member of Sunrise Movement and Progressive Maryland

DATE: 2/05/25

POSITION: Favorable

Thank you, members of the committee, for the opportunity to provide personal testimony in support of SB10, Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025. My name is Angela Clark and I am a member of the Sunrise Movement and supporter of Progressive Maryland's Environmental Justice Task Force. As a resident of Baltimore City, this bill is of extreme importance to myself and members of my community.

As a former resident of the Pigtown neighborhood, the ongoing exploitation of Maryland's residents through surreptitious practices appalls me. I find it deeply concerning that the three incinerators throughout the DMV area are funded by unwitting community members by way of inappropriately usurping Green Energy subsidies. The BRESCO incinerator is the largest emitter of air pollution in the city, exposing thousands of our residents to toxic chemicals such as lead, mercury, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and more. Not only are these greenhouse gases detrimental to our environment, but the toxic byproducts of incinerating trash have proven to cause negative health outcomes within Southern Baltimore's predominantly Black neighborhoods, including cancer and asthma. Maryland ratepayers have already paid over \$100 million into waste incineration since the inception of the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), with a projected \$300 million total by 2030 if these subsidies continue. These funds should be going towards legitimate clean energy infrastructure, rather than a system which pollutes our air and endangers our community. To allow this industrial waste processor to emit these chemicals into our environment is condemnable in the first place, but to silently force those negatively affected by that pollution to fund their own suffering is downright abhorrent.

I stand in solidarity with the members of my community in calling for the removal of this insult to our great city. I call on you, the representatives of our state senate, to right this wrong by passing SB10 and bringing an end to the ratepayer funding of this harmful pollution machine.

Respectfully,

Angela Clark

SB10_FAV_MUSSINI_MARYPIRG.pdf

Uploaded by: Angelina Mussini

Position: FAV

MARYPIRG

Students

Bill Title: SB10 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Position: Favorable

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

From: Angelina Mussini, Climate Action Coordinator, MaryPIRG Students

Date: 2/11/25

My name is Angelina Mussini, and I am a senior studying Environmental Science & Policy at the University of Maryland, College Park. I serve as the Climate Action Coordinator for Maryland Public Interest Research Group (MaryPIRG) Students, a grassroots advocacy organization representing our student body. **I am writing in SUPPORT of SB10, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (RREA) of 2025.** As a resident and ratepayer in District 21, I am greatly concerned regarding how my electricity bill contributes to subsidies for waste incineration facilities across the state, as they are distinct from other Tier 1 energy sources due to their adverse public health and economic impacts on my fellow Marylanders.

Exposure to emissions from waste incinerators is correlated to higher rates of asthma and heart disease, evidenced by the impacts of Particulate Matter pollution from the Bresco incinerator.¹ These impacts fall disproportionately on predominantly Black neighborhoods in South Baltimore, including Cherry Hill, Brooklyn, Westport, and Mount Winans, which are designated by the Maryland Department of the Environment's Environmental Justice Screening Tool as communities that are overburdened from pollution exposure. For example, the Westport neighborhood falls within the 96% percentile statewide in pollution burden exposure, due to the high prevalence of pollutants such as PM2.5 and ozone.²

From 2012 to 2022, electricity bills paid by Maryland ratepayers contributed over \$100 million to the operation of incineration facilities. According to the Public Service Commission's 2022 report on Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS), energy companies allocated significant funds to acquire Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) from three incinerators. Specifically, they invested \$8,776,070 for 382,233 RECs from the Montgomery County incinerator, \$4,203,999 for 183,101 RECs from Wheelabrator in Baltimore, and \$11,733,532 for 511,045 RECs from Covanta Fairfax.³ As a ratepayer, I would like to see utility subsidies benefit renewable energy sources like solar, geothermal, and hydropower to advance progress towards the goals of Maryland's renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

Due to the intensity of these demonstrable public health and economic, MaryPIRG Students respectfully requests an unfavorable report on SB10. Thank you for your attention and consideration to this matter.

¹ G. Thurston, WRITTEN REPORT OF GEORGE D. THURSTON REGARDING THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACTS OF AIR EMISSIONS FROM THE WHEELABRATOR FACILITY, November 20, 2017, <https://www.cbf.org/document-library/cbf-reports/thurston-wheelabrator-health-impacts-2017.pdf>

² <https://p1.cgis.umd.edu/ejscreen/>

³ "Report: Maryland's energy subsidies are going up in flames." peer.org. Last modified March 5, 2024. <https://peer.org/report-maryland-energy-subsidies-in-flames/>.

MARYPIRG

Students

Sincerely,

Angelina Mussini

Angelina Mussini, Climate Action Coordinator, Maryland Public Interest Research Group
Students

Wilson Anne FAVORABLE RREA 2025_02.11.2025.pdf

Uploaded by: Anne Wilson

Position: FAV

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 CO₂ 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.

Anne C.A. Wilson (District 43A)
221 Stony Run Lane, Apt H-2, Baltimore, Maryland 21210

SB0010_ArielleJuberg_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Arielle Juberg

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition. I am a resident of District 8. **I am testifying in support of SB0010.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard is intended to incentivize the conversion of more of our power grid to clean, renewable energy like wind and solar. Yet instead, a substantial amount of renewable energy credits come from burning trash: a method of energy generation that, far from being clean, fills the air with toxic pollutants, often in areas inhabited by the poor and marginalized who have limited ability to do anything about it. Instead of encouraging electricity providers to source more of their power from green sources and fostering the growth of renewable energy industries, Maryland is simply subsidizing a polluting industry at no benefit to the public.

Burning trash should never have been labeled a renewable energy source in the first place, and it is a shame and an embarrassment that year after year, we have continued this giveaway to trash incinerators in lieu of simply fixing this obvious and easily-resolvable flaw in the law. Now, when the budget crisis is forcing us to look closely at the value we are getting for every expenditure, is the perfect opportunity to make this change.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0010 - the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025** (Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations).

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Arielle Juberg
3411 Upton Road
Baltimore, MD 21234
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

SB0010 - Reclaim Renewable Energy Act_BH.pdf

Uploaded by: Barbara Hauck

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition. I am a resident of District 45. I am a voter, homeowner, and active community member. **I am testifying in support of SB0010.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard is intended to incentivize the conversion of more of our power grid to clean, renewable energy like wind and solar. Yet instead, a substantial amount of renewable energy credits come from burning trash: a method of energy generation that, far from being clean, fills the air with toxic pollutants, often in areas inhabited by the poor and marginalized who have limited ability to do anything about it. Instead of encouraging electricity providers to source more of their power from green sources and fostering the growth of renewable energy industries, Maryland is simply subsidizing a polluting industry at no benefit to the public.

Burning trash should never have been labeled a renewable energy source in the first place, and it is a shame and an embarrassment that year after year, we have continued this giveaway to trash incinerators in lieu of simply fixing this obvious and easily resolvable flaw in the law. Now, when the budget crisis is forcing us to look closely at the value we are getting for every expenditure, is the perfect opportunity to make this change.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0010 - the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025** (Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations).

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara Hauck

3420 Harford Rd.

Baltimore, MD 21218

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

PM RREA Testimony_Bernard.pdf

Uploaded by: Bernard King

Position: FAV



Bill Title: SB0010 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025

Position: SUPPORT (FAV)

To: Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

From: Bernard King, Baltimore County Resident and Member of Progressive Maryland

Date: February 11, 2025

Dear Honorable Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and the members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee,

My name is Bernard King, and I am a lifelong Marylander and current resident of Baltimore County. I am writing this letter to express my strong **support for SB0010, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025**. While I live outside Baltimore City, I have seen firsthand how the impacts of trash incineration extend far beyond municipal borders, affecting the health and well-being of entire regions. Facilities like the BRESKO Baltimore incinerator have long burdened nearby communities with high rates of asthma, cancer, pre-term births, and other severe health issues—all caused by the constant stream of pollutants released into our shared air.

The harmful effects of trash incineration are well-documented. A [study commissioned by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#) in 2017 found that fine particulate matter from the BRESKO Baltimore incinerator results in over \$55 million in adverse health effects annually. Burning waste creates dioxins, which the World Health Organization has classified as human carcinogens. These toxins, along with other pollutants like fine particulate matter, damage the immune, endocrine, nervous, and reproductive systems.

It is unacceptable that these facilities—disproportionately located near communities of color—receive subsidies through Maryland’s Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) under the guise of supporting “renewable energy.” The health and environmental costs borne by these communities far outweigh any claimed benefits from this outdated practice. Many affected communities historically lack access to adequate healthcare and financial resources, making it

nearly impossible for residents to address these mounting medical expenses. This is an environmental injustice that we can no longer ignore.

Incinerators are among the dirtiest methods of generating electricity, emitting more greenhouse gases per unit of energy than coal plants. This is not renewable energy, and continuing to define it as such misleads the public and undermines Maryland's progress in addressing climate change. By passing SB0010, Maryland can finally align its policies with the true intent of the Renewable Portfolio Standard—promoting clean, renewable energy sources that do not harm our environment or public health.

SB0010 offers a clear and actionable path forward. By passing this legislation, Maryland can eliminate harmful subsidies, reduce pollution, and redirect resources toward building a cleaner, greener energy future. The time has come to prioritize public health, environmental sustainability, and equity over the profit motives of aging, polluting industries.

Maryland's future depends on bold leadership, and I am counting on you to help create a brighter and healthier tomorrow for all of us. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Bernard King
Resident of Baltimore County

Copy of SB0010 - Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.docx

Uploaded by: Brytani Fraser

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore. We are also working in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition. I am a resident of **District 45**. **I am testifying in support of SB0010.**

As a city resident with allergies and as a former educator working with children who couldn't afford their asthma medication, I can speak firsthand to the public health implications of burning trash and the coinciding air quality issues it causes. Poor air quality impacts my low-income neighbors the most as they struggle to access health care they need to remain active in their jobs, schools, and communities. I hope one day to never see another child in Baltimore have an asthma attack because of environmental allergies and lack of funds for a maintenance inhaler. We can and should take better care of our community.

Burning trash should never have been labeled a renewable energy source in the first place, and it is a shame and an embarrassment that year after year, we have continued this giveaway to trash incinerators in lieu of simply fixing this obvious and easily-resolvable flaw in the law. Now, when the budget crisis is forcing us to look closely at the value we are getting for every expenditure, is the perfect opportunity to make this change.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0010 - the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025** (Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations).

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brytani Fraser

Baltimore, MD 21214

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore



Showing Up for Racial Justice

SB 10 Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligib

Uploaded by: Cait Kerr

Position: FAV

Thursday, February 13, 2025

TO: Brian Feldman, Chair of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee; and Committee Members

FROM: Mariana Rosales, The Nature Conservancy, Director of Climate; Cait Kerr, The Nature Conservancy, State Policy Manager.

POSITION: Support SB 10 Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources – Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) supports SB 10 offered by Senators Ferguson, Lewis Young, and Simonaire. SB 10 will remove waste incineration from the list of sources eligible as a Tier 1 renewable source under Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS). This bill is consistent with Maryland's commitments to reduce carbon emissions by 60% of 2006 levels by 2031 and to achieving net-zero emissions by 2045. The Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) Climate Pollution Reduction Plan calls for adopting a Clean Power Standard, which includes eliminating existing eligibility and subsidies for municipal solid waste incineration. Furthermore, the Maryland Commission on Climate Change recommended in its 2023 Annual Report removing solid waste incineration as an eligible source in the RPS due to its contributions to greenhouse gas emissions. SB 10 follows through on the RPS's original intentions to invest in healthy, emissions-reducing energy sources and sets Maryland up for success in achieving our carbon reduction goals.

Waste incineration subsidies are contradictory to the RPS's goals – incineration is amongst the highest-emitting methods for energy production. Incinerators release nitrogen oxides, major precursors of ground level ozone, and sulfur dioxide, both of which can cause and worsen respiratory illnesses. Incinerators can also emit mercury and lead, which are unsafe for human exposure in any amount. These subsidies are costing the state increasing amounts of RPS funds while emitting carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, in addition to air pollutants that are known to harm human health.

Eliminating waste incineration from eligibility and subsidies under the RPS is a budget-neutral way to free up funds for renewable energy investments. According to the Public Service Commission's RPS compliance report for 2022, waste incineration accounted for 6.9% of Tier 1 renewable energy credits. Under SB 10, this spending would be redistributed to support renewable energy sources that remain in the RPS. This would further Maryland's investment in reducing emissions for the health and future of our state.

TNC thanks Senators Ferguson, Lewis Young, and Simonaire, for introducing this bill, which would end state renewable energy subsidies for solid waste incineration and increase investments in Maryland's net-zero future.

Therefore, we urge a favorable report on SB 10.

Testimony Supporting SB0010.pdf

Uploaded by: Carlos Sanchez

Position: FAV

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

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

Everyone probably remembers me but just in case you don't. My name is Carlos Sanchez, I'm a resident of Baltimore City and part of a grassroots, community based nonprofit organization, the South Baltimore Community Land trust. I'm writing to express my strong support for SB0010 which I've been in support of since I was 13. I'm turning 20 years old tomorrow and it shows how much this bill matters to me and how long the South Baltimore community has been demanding this legislation. I live in Lakeland which is less than 2 miles away from the WIN waste trash incinerator and my entire life I've seen the health effects this pollution facility has on my community. But I'm not here to talk about that, I'm here because for the past 3 years I've been so frustrated because at the end of the day I'm paying for this facility to continue to harm my health and that's what I'm here to talk about.

I'll start off by saying Baltimore, and Maryland ratepayers at large, have been wasting so much money investing in non renewable "trash" incineration, subsidizing what is clearly not an efficient nor renewable way to get energy. [A new 2023 study in PLOS Climate](#) found that "incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity produced than *any* other power source" - including coal plants. The Land Trust has long been working to move Baltimore to a healthier future, building a path forward where we can receive our energy from truly renewable sources like wind and solar. But, this renewable energy shift has been inhibited by the increasing money going to the BRESCO Waste incinerator and the two other non renewable incineration facilities in Maryland and Virginia. This is not a solid waste bill, nor a zero waste bill, this is a Clean energy bill.

This bill is to stop lying to Maryland ratepayers about where their money is going. It reestablishes what the RPS was intended for, for clean renewable energy. As Maryland ratepayers, we are frustrated by how our money profits these non renewable, climate polluting facilities, further harmful to human health in comparison to Solar, wind, and geothermal. As we continue building our sustainable communities in South Baltimore, we are here today strongly in support of Bill SB0010 because the RPS subsidy is paid by electric utilities, and ultimately comes out of our utility bills. We deserve to know that when we're paying for renewable energy, we're actually helping support the actual clean renewable energy we need to fight climate change and clean our air. Please pass SB0010 as it's what Residents, Groups and Organizations need the state to do! We need yall to help restore the RPS to its original purpose of funding real and clean renewable energy. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Carlos C. Sanchez-Gonzalez
The South Baltimore Community Land Trust

SB010_Reclaim_Renewable_Energy_Act_MLC_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY FOR SB0010

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

Bill Sponsor: Senator Ferguson

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0010 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

This bill will ensure that Maryland is NOT subsidizing businesses that produce renewable energy that is not clean. We are in a climate crisis, and we cannot afford to be spending any money on facilities continue to make the problem worse. Not only is it wasteful to subsidize businesses that continue to pollute, it makes it harder to meet the statutory greenhouse gas reductions that are required to reduce the harm caused by climate change.

This bill will eliminate three types of energy from Maryland's RPS: trash incineration, woody biomass, and refuse derived fuel. All three of these types of energy production pollute the environment, harm nearby communities' health, and contribute to climate change. Subsidizing them takes money away from the clean, renewable energy that we need, and it also tilts waste markets toward the worst methods of managing our waste. We should be subsidizing businesses that do not pollute the environment, like wind and solar power, and let the waste sector work on managing waste.

Additionally, trash incineration causes tremendous health hazards, and we should not ever consider it a good source of renewable energy.

Our members do not approve of state subsidies to businesses that pollute. We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

SB 10 BES SUPPORT 21125.pdf

Uploaded by: CHARLES SHAFER

Position: FAV

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.

PM RREA Testimony_Christianne.pdf

Uploaded by: Christianne Marguerite

Position: FAV



Bill Title: SB0010 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025

Position: SUPPORT (FAV)

To: Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

From: Christianne Marguerite, Baltimore City Resident and Director of Communications at Progressive Maryland

Date: February 11, 2025

Dear Honorable Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and the members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee,

My name is Christianne Marguerite, and I'm writing to express my strong **support for SB0010 the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (RREA) of 2025**. I have been a proud resident of Baltimore City for over 9 years. I live in Patterson Park, just across the harbor from the Wheelabrator Baltimore trash incinerator. I am also an avid runner and marathoner who loves exploring the charm of our beautiful city waterfront. However, while running should improve my health, it often comes at a cost—breathing outside air in Baltimore exposes me to the air pollution and as a result, I have developed asthma. I am now forced to manage daily with an inhaler. I never had respiratory issues growing up until I fell in love with running around Baltimore. This is not just my new reality; it's the ongoing reality for countless other Baltimore residents whose bodies bear the burden of policies that prioritize toxic incineration over true renewable energy.

I am writing today to urge you to pass the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act, SB0010. This critical legislation would end the financial support Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) program provides to trash incineration and redirect those funds to genuine clean energy sources like solar and wind. For decades, the Wheelabrator incinerator operated by WIN Waste has released chemicals like mercury, lead, and particulate matter into the air, all of which disproportionately impact predominantly Black and low-income neighborhoods. Yet, somehow, this fossil fuel-intensive process is still classified as "renewable" under the RPS. Eliminating incineration from the RPS is long overdue, and I believe it is not only a matter of environmental policy but also one of public health, social justice, and economic fairness.

Ratepayers like myself should not endure subsidizing such harm. From 2012 to 2022 alone, Maryland electricity bills contributed over \$100 million to incineration facilities. That includes \$4.2 million allocated to purchase Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) from the very Wheelabrator incinerator that impacts the air I breathe. When I see these numbers, I can't help but wonder—why should our hard-earned dollars fund something that hurts our health, rather

than clean energy projects that would help us thrive? Why is profit being put above people? Why am I paying money to not be able to breathe?

The financial burden of supporting this outdated, polluting technology has only grown. Marylanders subsidized incineration to the tune of \$24.3 million in 2023, and if this practice isn't stopped, it could cost taxpayers an additional \$200 million by 2030. Over \$11 million in RECs went to the Covanta Fairfax incinerator in 2022, money that could instead promote wind turbines or solar panels. For comparison, incinerators emit more greenhouse gases per unit of electricity than almost any other energy source, including coal plants. This makes them neither clean nor cost-efficient.

Passing SB0010 is an opportunity to right these wrongs. Eliminating trash incineration from the RPS will reduce harmful subsidies and allow funds to flow to legitimate renewable energy sources that reduce greenhouse gases without harming public health. Not only would this shift clarify Maryland's commitment to clean energy, but it would also ensure we put our money to better use—whether by supporting solar projects or low-income renewable energy initiatives. Importantly, the fiscal note for this bill makes it clear that it will not increase rates for Marylanders.

For someone like me who suffers from the lasting health impacts of air pollution, this issue is deeply personal. But it's not just about me—it's about all Baltimore residents and Marylanders forced to endure polluted air while also being asked to subsidize the very facilities that harm them. It's time to focus on an energy future that sustains our communities instead of poisoning them.

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and esteemed members of the Committee, I urge you to vote favorably on the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act. My hope is that this legislation will pave the way for cleaner air, healthier communities, and a more equitable and sustainable energy future.

Sincerely,
Christianne Marguerite
Resident of Baltimore City

SB0010 - Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Christina Nemphos

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition. I am a resident of District 40 (Medfield neighborhood of Baltimore City). **I am testifying in support of SB0010.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard is intended to incentivize the conversion of more of our power grid to clean, renewable energy like wind and solar. Yet instead, a substantial amount of renewable energy credits come from burning trash: a method of energy generation that, far from being clean, fills the air with toxic pollutants, often in areas inhabited by the poor and marginalized who have limited ability to do anything about it. Instead of encouraging electricity providers to source more of their power from green sources and fostering the growth of renewable energy industries, Maryland is simply subsidizing a polluting industry at no benefit to the public.

Burning trash should never have been labeled a renewable energy source in the first place, and it is a shame and an embarrassment that year after year, we have continued this giveaway to trash incinerators in lieu of simply fixing this obvious and easily-resolvable flaw in the law. Now, when the budget crisis is forcing us to look closely at the value we are getting for every expenditure, is the perfect opportunity to make this change.

This is common sense! Please correct this error which grants subsidies to trash incineration operations as they spew harmful greenhouse gasses and particulate matter – often within close proximity to lower income, disenfranchised, black and brown neighborhoods!

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0010 - the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025** (Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations).

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Christina L Bell
1301 W. 42nd Street, Baltimore, Md 21211
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

SB0010 - Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.pdf

Uploaded by: Christina Pham Linhoff

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition. I am a resident of **District 46. I am testifying in support of SB0010.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard is intended to incentivize the conversion of more of our power grid to clean, renewable energy like wind and solar. Yet instead, a substantial amount of renewable energy credits come from burning trash: a method of energy generation that, far from being clean, fills the air with toxic pollutants, often in areas inhabited by the poor and marginalized who have limited ability to do anything about it. Instead of encouraging electricity providers to source more of their power from green sources and fostering the growth of renewable energy industries, Maryland is simply subsidizing a polluting industry at no benefit to the public.

Burning trash should never have been labeled a renewable energy source in the first place, and it is a shame and an embarrassment that year after year, we have continued this giveaway to trash incinerators in lieu of simply fixing this obvious and easily-resolvable flaw in the law. Now, when the budget crisis is forcing us to look closely at the value we are getting for every expenditure, is the perfect opportunity to make this change.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0010 - the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025** (Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations).

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Christina Pham Linhoff
710 William Street, Baltimore, MD 21230
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

Kilbourne RREA Testimony .pdf

Uploaded by: Claire Kilbourne

Position: FAV

MARYPIRG

Students

Bill Title: SB10 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Position: Favorable

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

From: Claire Kilbourne, Member of MaryPIRG Students

Date: 2/11/25

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB10, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (RREA) of 2025. My name is Claire Kilbourne, a proud member of MaryPIRG Students, a grassroots advocacy organization at the University of Maryland- College Park.

As a Maryland resident, I was previously unaware of how my family's electricity bill supported the financial gain of toxic incineration facilities across the state, particularly the Bresco incinerator. For four decades, this facility has emitted harmful chemicals that have disproportionately affected predominantly Black neighborhoods in South Baltimore, including Cherry Hill, Brooklyn, Westport, and Mount Winans, resulting in elevated rates of asthma and cancer.

From 2012 to 2022, electricity bills paid by Maryland ratepayers contributed over \$100 million to incineration efforts.¹ These funds ought to be directed towards genuine renewable energy sources like solar, geothermal, and hydro power. This aligns with the original intent of Maryland's renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

According to the Public Service Commission's 2022 report on Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS), energy companies allocated significant funds to acquire Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) from three incinerators. Specifically, they invested \$8,776,070 for 382,233 RECs from the Montgomery County incinerator, \$4,203,999 for 183,101 RECs from Wheelabrator in Baltimore, and \$11,733,532 for 511,045 RECs from Covanta Fairfax.²

As a Marylander, I am disenchanted by this high level of financial exploitation, and it is clear that incineration has clearly become a financial liability to our state's RPS. Once incineration is removed from RPS more RECs would go to support clean energy projects. Marylanders deserve a climate-conscious future, and the first step in doing so is to pass the RREA and remove incineration from RPS.

¹ "Report: Maryland's energy subsidies are going up in flames." peer.org. Last modified March 5, 2024. <https://peer.org/report-maryland-energy-subsidies-in-flames/>.

² "Report: Maryland's energy subsidies are going up in flames." peer.org. Last modified March 5, 2024. <https://peer.org/report-maryland-energy-subsidies-in-flames/>.

MARYPIRG

Students



SB0010 - Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.pdf

Uploaded by: Daryl Yoder

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition. I am a resident of District 44A. **I am testifying in support of SB0010.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard is intended to incentivize the conversion of more of our power grid to clean, renewable energy like wind and solar. Yet instead, a substantial amount of renewable energy credits come from burning trash: a method of energy generation that, far from being clean, fills the air with toxic pollutants, often in areas inhabited by the poor and marginalized who have limited ability to do anything about it. Instead of encouraging electricity providers to source more of their power from green sources and fostering the growth of renewable energy industries, Maryland is simply subsidizing a polluting industry at no benefit to the public.

Burning trash should never have been labeled a renewable energy source in the first place, and it is a shame and an embarrassment that year after year, we have continued this giveaway to trash incinerators in lieu of simply fixing this obvious and easily-resolvable flaw in the law. Now, when the budget crisis is forcing us to look closely at the value we are getting for every expenditure, is the perfect opportunity to make this change.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0010 - the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025** (Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations).

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Daryl Yoder
309 Glenmore Ave.
Catonsville, MD 21228
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

SB 10 -Reclaim Renewable Enerngy 2025-Favorable.pd

Uploaded by: Elizabeth Law

Position: FAV

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 10
**Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources –
Alterations 2 (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)**

COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment

HEARING DATE: February 13, 2025

SPONSOR: Senators Ferguson, Lewis Young, and Simonaire

POSITION: Favorable

Chair Brian Feldman, Vice Chair Cheryl Kagen and Members of the Committee,

As the Chair of the Fellowship of Scientists and Engineers and a resident of Frederick County, Maryland and person concerned with the costs due to the effects of climate change I ask for a Favorable Report on SB 0010.

Maryland needs to take action on reversing the damage of climate change. This will not happen if we continue to subsidize polluting incinerators or woody mass burning.

The state's fiscal situation has not been this thin in many years. We should not be wasting money on subsidizing incinerator to in the millions of dollars a year. Most egregious is the fact that most of the taxpayers money is going to Virginia's incinerators.

From Clean Water Action :

- **A trash incinerator in Virginia is making the most profit from Maryland ratepayers.** Since 2020, an incinerator in Lorton VA, operated by ReWorld (formerly Covanta) has profited the most from Maryland's RPS, receiving \$29.9 million from Maryland ratepayers, 40% of the program's RPS credits. In comparison, the Montgomery County incinerator received \$25.1 million, or 33%; the Baltimore City incinerator received \$20.2 million, or 27%. A private company owning an out-of-state incinerator profits the most from trash incineration remaining in Maryland's RPS

These funds could go to support renewable energy like solar panel/ backup battery systems installed in apartment buildings and schools. Even if not used for renewable power funds could be used to support the Governor's "no child left behind" program or to simply help Maryland's bottom line.

This bill makes simple common sense and is way past time it was enacted.

Please return a Favorable report.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Law, P.E. (retired)

Chair, Fellowship of Scientists and Engineers

Public Health Law Clinic_SB10_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Emily Hurley

Position: FAV

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 10

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

Before the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee: February 13, 2025

By removing waste-to-energy incineration from Maryland’s list of tier one renewable sources of energy, Senate Bill 10 will encourage the use and production of energy sources that do not emit harmful air pollutants into communities suffering from public health crises, such as asthma. For communities that have been systematically harmed by structural racism and do not have access to adequate health resources, Senate Bill 10 will allow them to breathe a little easier knowing that their energy bill is not being used to support incineration.

Currently, because of the pollution emitted by the Wheelabrator incinerator in South Baltimore, many residents struggle to breathe. This is because incineration exacerbates already present health disparities within marginalized communities. Baltimore City, by far, has the highest rate of emergency room visits for asthma when compared to every other county in Maryland.¹ And this health burden is not felt equally across race: the Maryland Department of Health has found that Black people are sent to the Emergency Department for asthma over four times the rate that White people are in Maryland.²

Asthma is not the only public health issue exacerbated by incineration. The EPA measures and reports over 20 distinct categories of pollution that the Baltimore incinerator emits.³ These pollutants include toxic materials such as arsenic, lead, mercury, formaldehyde, and sulfur dioxide, just to name a few. In 2020, the municipal waste incinerator in Baltimore emitted 1,764,812 pounds of nitrogen oxides and 44,221 pounds of fine particulate matter. **This amount of pollution is harmful and potential deadly for sensitive populations that live around its source.** The Centers for Disease Control warn that even small exposures to nitrogen oxides cause irritation to the eyes, throat, and lungs, and can cause shortness of breath.⁴ Exposure to fine particulate matter has even more serious effects, such as trouble breathing, lung cancer, heart attacks, heart disease, and even birth defects.⁵ The pollutants that incineration emits every day not only aggravate asthma symptoms but also lower the quality of life for those who live in its shadow.

¹ MD. DEP’T HEALTH, EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT (ED) VISITS FOR ASTHMA, <https://maps.health.maryland.gov/ephtportal/asthma/status/EDRates> (last accessed Feb. 9, 2025).

² MD. DEP’T HEALTH, RATE OF ASTHMA EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS, <https://maps.health.maryland.gov/ephtportal/asthma/disparities/EDTrends> (last accessed Feb. 9, 2025).

³ U.S. EPA, ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE HISTORY ONLINE (ECHO), AIR POLLUTANT REPORT, <https://echo.epa.gov/air-pollutant-report?fid=110009697845> (last accessed Feb. 8, 2025).

⁴ CTR.S DISEASE CONTROL, AGENCY TOXIC SUBSTANCES DISEASE REGISTRY, ToxFAQs™ FOR NITROGEN OXIDES (last updated March. 25, 2014), [https://wwwn.cdc.gov/TSP/ToxFAQs/ToxFAQsDetails.aspx?faqid=396&toxid=69#:~:text=Exposure%20to%20high%20levels%20of,Agency%20\(EPA\)%2C%20respectively.](https://wwwn.cdc.gov/TSP/ToxFAQs/ToxFAQsDetails.aspx?faqid=396&toxid=69#:~:text=Exposure%20to%20high%20levels%20of,Agency%20(EPA)%2C%20respectively.)

⁵ CTR.S DISEASE CONTROL, AIR QUALITY: AIR POLLUTANTS (last updated Feb. 16, 2024), <https://www.cdc.gov/air-quality/pollutants/index.html#:~:text=If%20you%20have%20asthma%2C%20particle,birth%2C%20like%20low%20birth%20weight.>

The EPA classifies environmental justice communities as those communities that “bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies.”⁶ The EPA already classifies the area surrounding the Baltimore incinerator as a potential environmental justice community based on thirteen measurable indices such as proximity to Superfund sites, the discharging of wastewater, and the emission of pollutants within the community.⁷ EPA data also reflects that over half of the population surrounding the incinerator is Black. Thus the pollution emitted by the incinerator not only poses public health challenges for the greater Baltimore community but may also worsen racial and environmental inequities for many Baltimore residents. This is why Senate Bill 10 is so important.

Senate Bill 10 does not shut down the incinerator in Baltimore, nor does it shut down the incinerator owned and operated by Montgomery County. Rather Senate Bill 10 sends a signal to all Marylanders that the State will no longer provide financial incentives for activities that are deleterious to community health and may send its citizens to the hospital. If this bill is passed, Maryland would join the 17 other states whose Renewable Portfolio Standards do not classify waste incineration as a renewable source of energy.⁸ In 2011, the General Assembly added waste incineration to the list of tier one renewable energy sources. MD. PUB. UTILITIES CODE ANN. §7-701(l). From 2011 to 2017, Wheelabrator earned an estimated \$10 million in subsidies through the State’s RPS program.⁹ These \$10 million should be used to support sources of energy that do not exacerbate already existing health and environmental disparities within Maryland communities.

Conclusion

Every Marylander deserves to be able to breathe. For those living with asthma or suffering from other chronic lung and heart conditions, living near an incinerator makes breathing difficult and deadly. Incineration currently exacerbates already existing health and environmental disparities within South Baltimore communities. This bill will remove subsidies for the Baltimore incinerator and show Maryland residents that the State is serious about protecting the health of its citizens. For these reasons, we request a favorable report on Senate Bill 10.

This testimony is submitted on behalf of the Public Health Law Clinic at the University of Maryland Carey School of Law and not by the School of Law, the University of Maryland, Baltimore, or the University of Maryland System.

⁶ U.S. EPA, EJS SCREEN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MAPPING AND SCREENING TOOL EJS SCREEN TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION (May 2015).

⁷ U.S. EPA, ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE HISTORY ONLINE (ECHO), DETAILED FACILITY REPORT, <https://echo.epa.gov/detailed-facility-report?fid=110009697845> (last accessed Feb. 8, 2025).

⁸ FOOD & WATER WATCH, CLEANWASHING: HOW STATES COUNT POLLUTING ENERGY SOURCES AS RENEWABLE, at 13 (July 2018), https://foodandwaterwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/rpt_1807_rpsnationalscores-web4_0.pdf. These 17 states include: Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin.

⁹ MARIE DONAHUE, INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL SELF-RELIANCE, WASTE INCINERATION: A DIRTY SECRET IN HOW STATES DEFINE RENEWABLE ENERGY, at 22 (December 2018), <https://ilsr.org/articles/waste-incineration-renewable-energy/#:~:text=The%20perverse%20designation%20of%20incineration,energy%20and%20waste%20management%20alternatives.>

SB0010 - Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.pdf

Uploaded by: Erica Palmisano

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition. I am a resident of 12. **I am testifying in support of SB0010.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard is intended to incentivize the conversion of more of our power grid to clean, renewable energy like wind and solar. Yet instead, a substantial amount of renewable energy credits come from burning trash: a method of energy generation that, far from being clean, fills the air with toxic pollutants, often in areas inhabited by the poor and marginalized who have limited ability to do anything about it, such as those who live around the Bresco incinerator. For four decades, this facility has emitted harmful chemicals that have disproportionately affected predominantly Black neighborhoods in South Baltimore, including Cherry Hill, Brooklyn, Westport, and Mount Winans, resulting in elevated rates of asthma and cancer. Instead of encouraging electricity providers to source more of their power from green sources and fostering the growth of renewable energy industries, Maryland is simply subsidizing a polluting industry at no benefit to the public.

Burning trash should never have been labeled a renewable energy source in the first place, and it is a shame and an embarrassment that year after year, we have continued this giveaway to trash incinerators in lieu of simply fixing this obvious and easily-resolvable flaw in the law. From 2012 to 2022, electricity bills paid by Maryland ratepayers contributed over \$100 million to incineration efforts. These funds ought to be directed towards genuine renewable energy sources like solar, geothermal, and hydro power. This aligns with the original intent of Maryland's renewable portfolio standard (RPS).¹ Now, when the budget crisis is forcing us to look closely at the value we are getting for every expenditure, is the perfect opportunity to make this change.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0010 — the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025** (Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations).

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Erica Palmisano
5580 Vantage Point Rd, Apt 5, Columbia, MD 21044
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

¹ "Report: Maryland's energy subsidies are going up in flames." peer.org. Last modified March 5, 2024.
<https://peer.org/report-maryland-energy-subsidies-in-flames/>

ECA testimony SB 10 Reclaim Renewables.pdf

Uploaded by: Frances Stewart

Position: FAV



SB0010 - SUPPORT
Frances Stewart, MD
Elders Climate Action Maryland
frances.stewart6@gmail.com
301-718-0446

SB0010 – the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Meeting of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

February 11, 2025

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee, on behalf of Elders Climate Action Maryland, I urge a favorable report on SB0010, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

Elders Climate Action is a nationwide organization devoted to ensuring that our children, grandchildren, and future generations have a world in which they can thrive. The Maryland Chapter has members across the state.

Each day, we see the climate crisis more clearly. We know that Maryland is at risk for sea level rise, flooding from intense rainfall, heat waves, and other extreme weather events. Maryland can also be a leader in moving us to a safer, cleaner future where we all can thrive. The clean energy transition is an essential part of that future.

Years ago, electricity generation from trash incineration was thought to be a form of renewable energy. Now we know that it is one of the dirtiest ways to generate electricity. It produces more greenhouse gases per unit of electricity than any other source, including coal. It also produces a wide array of toxic air pollutants, including mercury.

Maryland electricity customers should not be subsidizing this toxic mess, but we do. Utilities buy Renewable Energy Credits from these incinerators in Maryland and Virginia. That money should be spent on real renewables, either by buying

RECs from solar and wind generation or by Alternative Compliance Payments that fund renewable energy projects.

Maryland is facing a period of very tight budgets that may be worsened by loss of some Federal funding. Passing the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act would help us achieve our vital clean energy goals at no cost to the state or to ratepayers. Montgomery County owns one of the incinerators and is likely to lose some revenue, but the county is already working to close that incinerator.

For all of these reasons, we strongly urge a favorable report on SB0010.

Giovanni - RREA Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Giovanni Ergueta

Position: FAV

MARYPIRG

Students

Bill Title: SB10 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Position: Favorable

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

From: Giovanni Ergueta, Member of MaryPIRG Students

Date: 2/11/25

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB10, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (RREA) of 2025. My name is Giovanni, and I am a senior Public Policy major at the University of Maryland. I am a member of MaryPIRG Students, a grassroots advocacy organization at the University of Maryland- College Park.

As a Montgomery County and a Maryland 6th district resident, I was previously unaware of how my electricity bill supported the financial gain of toxic incineration facilities across the state, particularly the Bresco incinerator. For four decades, this facility has emitted harmful chemicals that have disproportionately affected predominantly Black neighborhoods in South Baltimore, including Cherry Hill, Brooklyn, Westport, and Mount Winans, resulting in elevated rates of asthma and cancer.

From 2012 to 2022, electricity bills paid by Maryland ratepayers contributed over \$100 million to incineration efforts.¹ These funds ought to be directed towards genuine renewable energy sources like solar, geothermal, and hydro power. This aligns with the original intent of Maryland's renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

According to the Public Service Commission's 2022 report on Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS), energy companies allocated significant funds to acquire Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) from three incinerators. Specifically, they invested \$8,776,070 for 382,233 RECs from the Montgomery County incinerator, \$4,203,999 for 183,101 RECs from Wheelabrator in Baltimore, and \$11,733,532 for 511,045 RECs from Covanta Fairfax.²

As a ratepayer, I am disenchanted by this high level of financial exploitation, and it is clear that incineration has clearly become a financial liability to our state's RPS. Once incineration is removed from RPS more REC's would go to support clean energy projects. The writing is clearly on the wall, it's time to pass the RREA and remove incineration from RPS.

Giovanni Ergueta, Member of MaryPIRG Students

¹ "Report: Maryland's energy subsidies are going up in flames." peer.org. Last modified March 5, 2024. <https://peer.org/report-maryland-energy-subsidies-in-flames/>.

² "Report: Maryland's energy subsidies are going up in flames." peer.org. Last modified March 5, 2024. <https://peer.org/report-maryland-energy-subsidies-in-flames/>.

Testimony of the Community of Curtis Bay Associati

Uploaded by: Gregory Sawtell

Position: FAV

Testimony of the Community of Curtis Bay Association
In Support of SB0010 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations
(Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)
Before the Maryland General Assembly

To the Honorable Members of the Maryland General Assembly:

The Community of Curtis Bay Association strongly urges passage of SB0010, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025, to correct a historic and devastating policy failure that has disproportionately harmed our community. For too long, Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) has misdirected public subsidies intended for clean energy into trash incineration—one of the most polluting and harmful forms of energy production. This policy has deepened environmental and health injustices in communities like Curtis Bay, which is ranked #1 in the state for environmental and health burdens due in part to the presence of two incinerators and a landfill where toxic incinerator ash is dumped.

These subsidies have directly led to harmful developments in our community. Less than a mile from our schools, a new incinerator was poised for construction, made possible by the state's misguided classification of trash burning as renewable energy. BUT FOR the relentless, five-year campaign waged by high school students and community members—who sacrificed their time, energy, and well-being—this incinerator would have been built, further poisoning our air and bodies.

The incinerator industry has spent untold amounts of money influencing public policy, including working against basic transparency. For years, they have secured exemptions from even having to report to the public on the quantities of toxic releases resulting from their operations. However, this is now changing. New regulatory efforts are beginning to shine a light on the extent to which these facilities are major sources of toxic releases to air, land, and water. See recent reporting from The Guardian (<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/jan/09/epa-waste-toxic-air-emissions>) underscores how long-overdue transparency measures are more exposing the environmental and health consequences of incineration that residents across Maryland and beyond have presented for decades.

Many of the very officials in office when this policy was established have since expressed regret for the damage it caused. Former Baltimore City Sustainability Commission Chair Cheryl Casciani acknowledged:

“I wish the commission had taken a position” on the 2011 bill making waste-to-energy a renewable form of energy, “which I consider to be a very key decision that opened a door for this kind of thing, so I regret not being more active in Annapolis on that. We have found our sea legs on this stuff now, but on this one, we didn’t.” While there “is nothing in Baltimore’s sustainability plan to say the way to solve our issues is incineration,” she continues, “it does call for relying more on

renewable energy, and now it is considered part of that. We are very much leaning toward a more zero-waste strategy for the city, with a much more aggressive, progressive approach to waste management, which would make this moot because it would starve incinerators. But this bill changed the equation.”

The admission is clear: the 2011 decision to subsidize incineration was a mistake. And the consequences of that mistake have been borne disproportionately by the working-class Black and brown communities living near incinerators. These facilities emit lead, mercury, and dioxins—chemicals linked to cancer, respiratory illness, and developmental disorders in children. Curtis Bay residents have long suffered some of the highest rates of asthma and other pollution-related diseases in the state. Instead of investing in clean, sustainable energy, Maryland has propped up an industry that profits from poisoning our neighborhoods.

It is time to defund this failed experiment. We know what happens now when we give incinerators millions of dollars in subsidies - they burn more trash and make it harder for us to breathe. They also sue County governments when they dare to send less waste to be burned - as was the case when BRESKO sued Baltimore County for 32 million dollars in <https://www.wastedive.com/news/wheelabrator-baltimore-lawsuit-contract-dispute/552762/> .

SB0010 will ensure that Maryland’s renewable energy dollars go to truly clean sources like wind and solar, rather than to an industry that thrives on environmental injustice. We urge you to stand with the communities most impacted by these decisions and vote to pass SB0010.

Sincerely,
Community of Curtis Bay Association Board of Directors

SB10 rps cleanup 2025.pdf

Uploaded by: Gwen DuBois

Position: FAV



SB 10

Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources – Alterations 3 (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)

Committee: Education, Energy and Environment

February 13, 2015

FAVORABLE (SUPPORT)

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility (CPSR) supports SB10. We are a statewide evidenced-based, organization of over 900 physicians, and other health professionals and supporters, that addresses the existential public health threats: nuclear weapons, the climate crisis and the issues of pollution and toxics' effect on health as seen through the intersectional lens of environmental, social and racial justice. As an organization founded by physicians, we understand that prevention is far superior to treatment in reducing costs; death, illness, injury, and suffering.

Incineration should come out of the Renewable Portfolio Standard and should never have been there in the first place. Waste-to-energy incineration is more polluting and produces more CO₂ per unit of energy than even coal fired power plants.¹ Incineration emits nitrous oxide (N₂O), another greenhouse gas² which is emitted during the combustion of solid waste. Trucks hauling waste to and from incinerators are an important source of diesel pollution in addition to greenhouse gases.³

This bill is not intended to shut down incinerators, only to remove subsidies that are designed for clean renewable energy. Removing incinerators will allow credits to go to and subsidize truly renewable energy. Incinerators out of state and in state should not be entitled to receive credits from the Renewable Portfolio Standards.

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility is concerned by the additional health harms from incineration including Baltimore's municipal waste incinerator, which was identified as the

¹ <https://environmentalintegrity.org/news/eip-report-waste-to-energy-incinerators-pollute-more-per-of-hour-of-energy-than-coal-fired-power-plants-and-are-not-renewable/>

² <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/overview-greenhouse-gases#nitrous-oxide>

³ [https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions#:~:text=Transportation%20\(28%25%20of%202021%20greenhouse,ships%2C%20trains%2C%20and%20planes.](https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions#:~:text=Transportation%20(28%25%20of%202021%20greenhouse,ships%2C%20trains%2C%20and%20planes.)

single largest industrial polluter in Baltimore in 2017.⁴ It emits mercury, dioxin, nitrogen oxides and just one year's direct and indirect health costs from PM2.5 (fine and ultrafine particulate matter) in Maryland was estimated to be nearly \$22 million.⁵ This bill won't eliminate that pollution, because it doesn't shut the incinerators down. It just eliminates a subsidy incinerator shouldn't have been receiving in the first place. Spending that money, that has been profiting the trash incinerators, on renewable energy development instead, will clean our grid and clean our air.

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility supports SB10, removing incineration from the Renewable Portfolio Standards. We should not be subsidizing that which is increasing greenhouse gases and other health harms.

Gwen L. DuBois MD, MPH
President, Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
gdubois@jhsph.edu
<https://www.chesapeakepsr.org/>

⁴ <https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/environment/bs-md-trash-incineration-20171107-story.html>

⁵ <https://www.cbf.org/document-library/cbf-reports/thurston-wheelabrator-health-impacts-2017.pdf>

SB 10_Support_Healthy Climate Maryland 2025 Testim

Uploaded by: Healthy Climate Maryland N/A

Position: FAV

February 13, 2025

SUPPORT - SB 10 - Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to support SB 10, The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025. United by a shared commitment to the health and well-being of all Marylanders, Healthy Climate Maryland is a coalition of dedicated public health and medical professionals that seeks to address climate change and environmental challenges by focusing on their impacts on public health. We are working to educate, advocate, and build strong partnerships towards a healthier, more sustainable future for Maryland.

This bill removes municipal solid waste incineration from the state's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS), and as a result would make more of Maryland's investments and Renewable Energy Credits available for truly renewable sources of energy like wind and solar.

Investments in renewable energy are investments in public health, namely because of the massive reduction in air pollution. Our reliance on fossil fuels for energy has created excessive air pollution across the country, a burden which is disproportionately borne by low-income communities and communities of color. Burning municipal solid waste for energy similarly produces byproducts that include particulate matter and dioxins. Particulate matter can make its way deep into the lungs and impact peoples' ability to breathe, impact children's lung development, and also impact people's mental health and learning ability because these microscopic particles can cross the blood-brain barrier.

The chart included below from a 2017 report estimates a cost of nearly \$22 million in Maryland from the direct health impacts from the Wheelabrator trash incinerator in Baltimore for just one year and one pollutant, PM 2.5. Investing our renewable energy money in trash incinerators that emit similar pollution as coal plants and other fossil fuel energy sources is a misuse of limited state dollars. Eliminating trash incineration from the RPS so that more money can be invested in real, emissions-free renewable energy will get more renewable energy on the grid, which will benefit every Marylander.

Table 2. Annual Maryland Human Health Effects and Monetary Valuations Associated With the PM_{2.5} Air Pollution Impacts from the Wheelabrator Plant

Health Endpoint	Number Per Year	Total Dollar Valuation (2010\$)
Respiratory Hospital Admissions (Kloog et al., 2012; Zanobetti et al., 2009)	0.3 ^a	\$10,763
Cardiovascular Hospital Admissions (Bell et al., 2008; Peng et al., 2008; Peng et al., 2009; Zanobetti et al., 2009)	0.4 ^a	\$16,803
Acute Bronchitis (Dockery et al., 1996)	3.0	\$1,462
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal (Pope et al., 2006; Sullivan et al., 2005; Zanobetti et al., 2009; Zanobetti & Schwartz, 2006)	0.2 ^b	\$29,201
Emergency Room Visits (Glad et al., 2012; Mar et al., 2010; Slaughter et al., 2005)	2.4 ^b	\$1,003
Asthma Exacerbation Symptoms (Mar et al., 2004; Ostro et al., 2001)	59.5 ^b	\$3,435
Upper Respiratory Symptoms (Pope et al., 1991)	55.3	\$1,841
Lower Respiratory Symptoms (Schwartz and Neas, 2000)	38.8	\$815
Minor Restricted Activity Days (Ostro & Rothschild, 1989)	1770.8	\$120,838
Work Days Lost (Ostro et al., 1987)	297.6	\$55,091
Chronic Bronchitis (Abbey et al., 1995)	1.5	\$419,644 ^c
Mortality, All Causes (Krewski et al., 2009)	2.2	\$21,160,530
Total Valuation		\$21,821,425

a Pooled effects with averaging approach, as per EPA BenMAP default setting.

b Pooled effects with random/fixed effects approach, as per EPA BenMAP default setting.

c Pooled effects with summation approach, as per EPA BenMAP default setting.

Source: WRITTEN REPORT OF GEORGE D. THURSTON REGARDING THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACTS OF AIR EMISSIONS FROM THE WHEELABRATOR FACILITY, November 20, 2017 <https://www.cbf.org/document-library/cbf-reports/thurston-wheelabrator-health-impacts-2017.pdf>

[Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan](#) (CPRP), published in December 2023, includes a recommendation to remove municipal solid waste from the state's RPS, and recognizes that legislation is needed to make this change. SB 10 codifies the CPRP's recommendation. In total, the recommendations included in the CPRP are expected to deliver additional health benefits of \$142 million to \$321 million in 2031 compared to current policies. The Maryland Commission on Climate Change also included a recommendation to remove municipal solid waste from the RPS as part of their [2023 annual report](#).

Thank you for the opportunity to support SB 10, The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025 and we urge a favorable report.

SB0010 - Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.pdf

Uploaded by: Holly Powell

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition. I am a resident of **District 46.. I am testifying in support of SB0010.**

Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard is intended to incentivize the conversion of more of our power grid to clean, renewable energy like wind and solar. Yet instead, a substantial amount of renewable energy credits come from burning trash: a method of energy generation that, far from being clean, fills the air with toxic pollutants, often in areas inhabited by the poor and marginalized who have limited ability to do anything about it. Instead of encouraging electricity providers to source more of their power from green sources and fostering the growth of renewable energy industries, Maryland is simply subsidizing a polluting industry at no benefit to the public.

Burning trash should never have been labeled a renewable energy source in the first place, and it is a shame and an embarrassment that year after year, we have continued this giveaway to trash incinerators in lieu of simply fixing this obvious and easily-resolvable flaw in the law. Now, when the budget crisis is forcing us to look closely at the value we are getting for every expenditure, is the perfect opportunity to make this change.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0010 - the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025** (Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations).

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Holly Powell

2308 Cambridge Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21224

Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

RREA.pdf

Uploaded by: Hunter Grove

Position: FAV



PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND

P.O. Box 7595, Largo MD 20792

ProgressiveMaryland.org

Info@progressivemaryland.org

2/11/2025

Testimony in Support of HB0220/SB0010: Hunter Grove

Dear Chair Wilson and Members of the Committee,

As a resident of Baltimore and a Maryland ratepayer concerned about the health of our home, my friends, family, and future children, I am writing to express my strong support of HB0220 the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

The Climate Crisis is here, and Maryland cannot afford to keep postponing the switch to clean energy. The RPS is an important tool to implement this transition. However, if we continue to subsidize trash incineration with this tool, we are actively contributing to worsening the Climate Crisis. Maryland's budget is already facing a large deficit, and this bill will reallocate money to increase funding for clean energy at no extra cost to the state budget.

In addition to the fact that trash incinerators generate more greenhouse gas emissions than any other source of energy (PLOS), they also emit several pollutants directly harmful to human health, at an estimated \$55 million annually in health damages to our community (Chesapeake Bay Foundation). We simply cannot continue prioritizing corporate profits and greenwashing over the health of our most vulnerable and historically marginalized community members. As citizens of this land, we owe a deep debt of gratitude and responsibility to our home for taking such good care of us and allowing us to build our lives and families here. It is time to start taking care of our home like we want to continue living here.

SB0010_MDGrassrootsEJWorkgroup_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Iman Habib

Position: FAV

Bill Title: SB0010 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025

Position: SUPPORT (FAV)

To: Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

From: MD Grassroots EJ Workgroup

Dear Honorable Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and the members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee,

The MD Grassroots EJ Workgroup is submitting this **testimony in support of [SB0010](#) The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (RREA) of 2025**. We, the undersigned, are a table of grassroots organizations that engage in power building to undertake environmental and social justice initiatives in our communities all across Maryland while dismantling all forms of structural racism. Our organizing is concentrated in low-income, Black and Brown communities disproportionately bearing the burden of environmental issues and we seek to uplift and protect these voices throughout our advocacy.

For example, the low-income Black and Brown communities of Westport, Mt. Winans, Cherry Hill, Lakeland, Brooklyn and Curtis Bay in Baltimore, Maryland are disproportionately suffering at the hands of the Wheelabrator Baltimore Refuse Energy Systems Company (“BRESKO”) Incinerator. Maryland’s current Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) legitimizes these adverse impacts on the environment and public health by including “waste-to-energy,” (i.e. trash incineration) as a viable renewable resource that is eligible for Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) which are subsidized. Trash incineration releases thousands of tons of greenhouse gases, toxic elements such as lead and mercury, and toxic ash into the atmosphere. The 2024 PEER Report on the RPS concluded that if “waste-to-energy” remains in the list of renewable energy sources, it will cost Maryland ratepayers an additional \$200,000,000 of RECs between 2023 and 2030. Maryland constituents, especially those that are underserved and overburdened, should not be financially contributing to their own demise.

Passage of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act will:

1. Remove trash incineration from the list of renewable energy sources eligible for RECs without shutting down incinerators in Maryland and with no additional cost to the state budget; and
2. Redistribute the subsidy that would have otherwise been used to fund waste incineration to cleaner sources of energy such as solar, wind, and hydro.

The RREA will help advance the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)’s Climate Pollution Reduction Plan which aims to modify definitions of qualifying resources that are eligible for subsidies under the Renewable Portfolio Standard in order to achieve the 2031 greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal. Simultaneously, it will ensure that Marylanders, specifically those that are low-income and minorities, are no longer financing investment into dirty energy sources that pollute the environment and adversely impact their health. Rather, we are hopeful that these subsidies will instead be directed toward clean energy sources that improve the health and wealth of our communities at no additional cost to the state budget. As a coalition of organizations that advocate for and organize with working class, Black and Brown communities, the MD Grassroots EJ Workgroup is committed to a clean energy transition that prioritizes these individuals and therefore favors the passage of SB0010.

Endorsing Organizations

The Maryland Just Power Alliance (Action In Montgomery (AIM), People Acting Together in Howard (PATH), Anne Arundel Connecting Together (ACT))

Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition

Black Girls Vote

CASA

Centro de Apoyo Familiar

Interfaith Power and Light (DC.MD.NoVA)

Out for Justice

Progressive Maryland

RREA Senate Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Imani Harvill

Position: FAV



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



Sources

<https://marylandmatters.org/2024/10/21/ferguson-seeks-to-remove-incinerators-from-states-renewable-energy-subsidy-program/>

Terminating Financing of Dirty Energy: Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (RREA) of 2025 SB10/HB220 Bill Sponsors: Sen. Bill Ferguson, Del. Vaughn Stewart

- Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) includes "waste-to-energy" (i.e. trash incineration) as a renewable energy source that can be tax subsidized.
- Trash incineration releases greenhouse gases, toxic elements (e.g., mercury[1] and lead[2]), and toxic ash into the air—**this is not clean energy!**
- In 2020, the BRESKO Incinerator in Baltimore emitted **690,033 tons of carbon dioxide** alone![3]
- Adverse health outcomes associated with exposure to burnt trash:
 - Cancer,
 - Brain Damage,
 - Respiratory conditions (e.g., asthma, lung deterioration),
 - Cardiovascular issues (e.g., heart attacks, heart disease).[4]

Total Subsidy by Facility

All figures are from the year 2023

Covanta Fairfax Energy	\$8,075,895.87
Montgomery County Resource Recovery	\$6,945,755.84
Montgomery County Resource Recovery	\$296,965.74
Wheelabrator Baltimore Refuse (Generation 1)	\$8,986,091.21

Subsidy (in \$)

The RREA will:

- Remove trash incineration from the list of green energy sources eligible for tax subsidies
- Redistribute this subsidy toward investment in clean, renewable energy sources (i.e. solar, wind, and geothermal)
- Advance Maryland Department of Environment (MDE)'s Climate Pollution Reduction Plan aiming to "reduce statewide GHG emissions 60% from 2006 levels by 2031." [6]

The RREA will NOT:

- Shut down the incinerators in Maryland, rather it will no longer subsidize waste incineration as a renewable energy source
- Affect the state budget in any capacity. Instead it will redirect subsidies toward clean, renewable energy sources.

"I want our state to...[fund] clean energy and not...trash incineration because the emissions are harming my health, the health of my friends, and the environment." - **Baltimore Constituent**

Get Involved:

If you want to support this legislation, submit testimony, or want to learn more about the RREA, please reach out to Progressive Maryland's Environmental Justice Organizer, SirJames Weaver.

sirjames@progressivemaryland.org
240-883-7645

Baltimore

It cost Maryland taxpayers over \$24 million to subsidize trash incineration facilities in 2023, with nearly **\$9 million** directed toward the Wheelabrator Baltimore Refuse Energy Systems Company ("BRESKO") Incinerator in Baltimore, Maryland![3]

If trash incineration **remains in the RPS**, between 2023 and 2030, Maryland energy providers will waste an **additional \$200,000,000** to buy Renewable Energy Credits from trash incinerators." [3]

Waste incineration is always more expensive when compared to deriving energy from clean, renewable energy sources, and many trash incinerators have shut down for this reason.[5]

Sources

[1] "Mercury exposure and children's health" (Bose-O'Reilly S, McCarty KM, Steckling N, Lettmaler B, 2010)

[2] "Lead in Food and Foodwares" (FDA, 2025)

[3] PEER Report (PEER, 2024)

[4] "Waste Incineration: Deeply Harmful and Outdated" (Equity Fund, 2022)

[5] "Fast-track! Trash Incineration Closures 2009-2024" (Energy Justice, 2024)

[6] "Climate Pollution Reduction Plan" (Maryland Department of the Environment, 2023)

<https://www.thebaltimorebanner.com/community/local-news/moving-out-of-maryland-census-da-76ZWGRSMXNCKTGR62I4FONWZBA/>

Testimony Support - SB 10 Comptroller Bill Henry 2

Uploaded by: J Hardy

Position: FAV



BILL HENRY
OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER

City Hall – Room 204
100 Holliday St Baltimore, MD 21202

February 10, 2025

The Honorable Brain Feldman, Chairman
Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
Maryland State Senate
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

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

I am writing in **support** of Senate Bill (SB) 10, “Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources – Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025).” SB 10 would remove the incentives for incinerating trash under the State Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) and redirect these ratepayer subsidies to actual renewable energy sources.

In 2004, Maryland passed legislation to create Maryland’s RPS. In the original design of the RPS program, incinerators were included in the Tier 2 category, which was supposed to phase out in 2019 - a recognition that trash incineration is not as desirable or valuable as truly renewable energy like wind and solar power. But in 2011, as community pressure was mounting against two new proposed incinerators in Baltimore and Frederick, the industry successfully lobbied to be moved to the more highly subsidized, permanent Tier 1 category. Ultimately, the community opposition won, and neither facility was built. Still, with trash incineration now classified as a “renewable energy” (Tier 1) in the RPS, incinerators enjoy millions of dollars in RPS ratepayer subsidies each year – reducing subsidies that should support actual renewable energy sources.

Maryland energy ratepayers subsidize renewable energy through the RPS program. This program requires utilities to purchase Renewable Energy Credits (or RECs, representing the renewable energy attributes of 1 MWh of energy) at increasing amounts over time. The subsidy amount to the three incinerators receiving subsidies through the State RPS program doubled between 2020 and 2022. In 2022, BRESCO in Baltimore City received \$4.2 million in subsidies, Dickerson in Montgomery County received \$8.7 million, and Covanta in Lorton, VA, received subsidies totaling \$11.7 million. Trash incineration should never have been included in Tier 1 of the RPS. Trash incineration is not renewable energy.

Trash incinerators pollute more than Maryland’s coal plants per unit of energy each produces and emit a disproportionately high amount of greenhouse gas pollution, particularly compared to the small amount of energy they put onto the grid. They also emit health-harming local air pollution such as mercury and lead, for which there is no known level of safe human exposure. When ratepayer dollars flow through the RPS to purchase Renewable Energy Credits produced by trash incinerators, including the trash incinerator in Baltimore City, ratepayers are not getting clean, renewable energy; they are getting dirty, polluting energy. The millions of dollars spent subsidizing trash incineration should be spent subsidizing energy sources that do not pollute, like wind, solar and geothermal.

In 2019, while I was a member of the Baltimore City Council, I was the proud cosponsor of City Council Resolution [19-0123R](#), "Request for State Action - Removing Financial Incentives for Trash Incineration." Five years later, as Baltimore City's Comptroller and someone who supports the use of clean, renewable energy in Baltimore City and throughout Maryland, I am again asking the State to act.

Removing trash incineration from the Tier 1 renewable energy category would preclude energy generated from these sources from counting toward meeting the State's RPS and would free utility customers from having to subsidize dirty energy. Dedication of our renewable energy funds to genuinely renewable energy is an appropriate step to steward Maryland's climate action resources wisely and make the RPS program more environmentally just and fiscally responsible.

For all these reasons, I respectfully request the committee to give SB 10 a favorable report. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Comptroller@baltimorecity.gov.

Sincerely,



Bill Henry
Baltimore City Comptroller

CC: Senate President Bill Ferguson
Senator Mary L. Washington, Chair, Baltimore City Delegation

Testimony in support of SB0010.pdf

Uploaded by: Jamie DeMarco

Position: FAV



**Favorable Testimony for
Reclaim Renewable Energy Act
SB0010
Education, Energy, Environment Committee
2/13/2025**

**Jamie DeMarco
Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund
Lobbyist**

On behalf of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund, I urge a favorable report on SB0010. We thank and applaud Senate President Ferguson for introducing the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act. Burning trash pollutes our air and contributes to the climate crisis. Maryland should not be subsidizing the practice of burning trash as part of our Renewable Portfolio Standard, and it is time that this technology is removed from the list of tier 1 renewable energy sources.

CONTACT
Jamie DeMarco, Lobbyist
jamie@demarcoavocacy.com, 443-845-5601



Reclaim Renewable Energy Act 11 FEB 2025.pdf

Uploaded by: Jan Kleinman

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition. I am a resident of District 46, in Baltimore City. I live within sight of the tall tower spewing fumes and pollutants from the trash incinerator across the harbor. **I am testifying in support of SB0010.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard is intended to incentivize the conversion of more of our power grid to clean, renewable energy like wind and solar. Yet instead, a substantial amount of renewable energy credits come from burning trash: a method of energy generation that, far from being clean, fills the air with toxic pollutants, often in areas inhabited by the poor and marginalized who have limited ability to do anything about it. Instead of encouraging electricity providers to source more of their power from green sources and fostering the growth of renewable energy industries, Maryland is simply subsidizing a polluting industry at no benefit to the public and at considerable harm to those immediately adjacent.

Burning trash should never have been labeled a renewable energy source in the first place, and it is a shame and an embarrassment that year after year, we have continued this giveaway to trash incinerators in lieu of simply fixing this obvious and easily-resolvable flaw in the law. Now, when the budget crisis is forcing us to look closely at the value we are getting for every expenditure, is the perfect opportunity to make this change.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0010 - the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025** (Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations).

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jan Kleinman
250 President ST Unit 508
Baltimore, MD 21202
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

SB0010_ProgressiveMaryland_JanayFenner_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Janay Fenner

Position: FAV



PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND

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**Testimony Supporting Maryland Senate Bill SB10
Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations
(Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)**

TO: Chair Feldman, and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Janay Fenner, Communications Coordinator at Progressive Maryland

DATE: February 11, 2025

POSITION: Favorable

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my **strong support for SB0010 the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025**. My name is Janay Fenner, and I am a lifelong Baltimore resident and the Communications Coordinator for Progressive Maryland. I love my city deeply, but I cannot ignore the reality of the air pollution that surrounds us. I suffer from asthma, and like so many others in my community, I feel the effects of our polluted air every day. It is impossible to walk through Baltimore without noticing the impact that the BRESCO trash incinerator has on our air and our health. It is even more impossible to accept that this private incinerator receives tens of millions of dollars in subsidies while it continues to poison the very communities that live in its shadow.

The people of Baltimore-especially South Baltimore-wake up every day knowing that toxic chemicals are being pumped into the air we breathe. These are communities that have been historically overburdened by environmental injustice, forced to bear the consequences of decisions made without their well-being in mind. And yet, Maryland continues to subsidize this pollution, sending public funds to a privately owned incinerator that emits greenhouse gases and air pollution into predominantly Black and working-class neighborhoods.

By continuing to direct millions of dollars in subsidies to trash incineration under the Renewable Portfolio Standard, Maryland undermines the very purpose of this program and backtracks on its commitments to reducing emissions under the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022. The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act is a necessary step to clean up Maryland's RPS and ensure that our renewable energy subsidies support actual clean energy like wind, solar, and other non-emitting, non-combustible resources.

I have no problem with my utility dollars going to truly renewable energy sources, knowing that they are improving my city and protecting future generations. But burning trash for energy is a dirty, harmful practice that does not belong in our clean energy portfolio. The fact that our communities are expected to tolerate this pollution while our public dollars fund it is unacceptable.

I urge the members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee to demonstrate that you care about making our air cleaner, our environment healthier, and our communities safer by passing the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Janay Fenner

RREA Testimony Jason J.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Jason Juarez

Position: FAV

MARYPIRG

Students

Bill Title: SB10 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Position: Favorable

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

From: Jason Juarez, Member of MaryPIRG Students

Date: 2/11/25

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB10, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (RREA) of 2025. My name is Jason Juarez, a proud member of MaryPIRG Students, a grassroots advocacy organization at the University of Maryland- College Park.

As a Maryland resident, I was previously unaware of how my electricity bill supported the financial gain of toxic incineration facilities across the state, particularly the Bresco incinerator. For four decades, this facility has emitted harmful chemicals that have disproportionately affected predominantly Black neighborhoods in South Baltimore, including Cherry Hill, Brooklyn, Westport, and Mount Winans, resulting in elevated rates of asthma and cancer.

From 2012 to 2022, electricity bills paid by Maryland ratepayers contributed over \$100 million to incineration efforts.¹ These funds ought to be directed towards genuine renewable energy sources like solar, geothermal, and hydro power. This aligns with the original intent of Maryland's renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

According to the Public Service Commission's 2022 report on Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS), energy companies allocated significant funds to acquire Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) from three incinerators. Specifically, they invested \$8,776,070 for 382,233 RECs from the Montgomery County incinerator, \$4,203,999 for 183,101 RECs from Wheelabrator in Baltimore, and \$11,733,532 for 511,045 RECs from Covanta Fairfax.²

As a ratepayer, I am disenchanted by this high level of financial exploitation, and it is clear that incineration has clearly become a financial liability to our state's RPS. Once incineration is removed from RPS more REC's would go to support clean energy projects. The writing is clearly on the wall, it's time to pass the RREA and remove incineration from RPS.

¹ "Report: Maryland's energy subsidies are going up in flames." peer.org. Last modified March 5, 2024. <https://peer.org/report-maryland-energy-subsidies-in-flames/>.

² "Report: Maryland's energy subsidies are going up in flames." peer.org. Last modified March 5, 2024. <https://peer.org/report-maryland-energy-subsidies-in-flames/>.

Testimony Supporting SB10 Feb 11 2025.pdf

Uploaded by: jeffrey barnes

Position: FAV



PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND

P.O. Box 7595, Largo MD 20792

ProgressiveMaryland.org

Info@progressivemaryland.org

Bill Title: SB10 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Position: Favorable

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

From: Jeffrey Barnes, Member of Progressive Maryland

Date: 2/11/25

Dear Chairperson Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee.

As a resident of the 46th district, a Maryland ratepayer, a member of Progressive Maryland, and a resident concerned about the quality of air we breathe, I am writing to express my strong support for SB10, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025. This bill is crucial for ensuring Maryland's energy policy truly prioritizes clean, renewable energy and responsible spending of taxpayer dollars. I live about 4 miles from the incinerator here in Baltimore and I feel the effects of the pollutants daily. Particulate matter particles accumulate on my tables, my computer, and the screens on my windows to a thickness that's scary nearly weekly. That's no way to live.

Maryland's government should be investing in genuine clean energy sources, not subsidizing polluting trash incineration under the guise of "renewable energy." This misclassification is a costly mistake that diverts crucial funds away from real solutions. From 2012 to 2022, Maryland ratepayers contributed over \$100 million to incineration through electricity bills. This is unacceptable.

In 2023 \$9 million of this total alone were used to finance the Wheelabrator Baltimore Refuse Energy Systems Company ("BRESKO") Incinerator.(3)

According to PEER in March 2024(3), "...Including trash incineration in the RPS is very costly for Marylanders. Between 2012 and 2022, Maryland energy providers spent about \$100,000,000 subsidizing trash incinerators through Maryland's RPS. Unless the legislature acts now, these costs will get much worse. Our analysis projects that between 2023 and 2030, Maryland energy providers will waste an additional \$200,000,000 subsidizing trash incineration if trash incineration remains in Maryland's RPS. These costs are passed on to consumers, likely at marked-up rates..."

Opponents may argue that removing trash incineration from the RPS will hinder progress towards our renewable energy targets. However, true progress cannot be built on false solutions. SB10 is not about slowing down; it's about correcting a fundamental flaw in our energy policy and ensuring that our investments are truly contributing to a clean energy future. Multiple Maryland state government agencies also support eliminating RPS payments to incinerators.

We must stop wasting taxpayer dollars on this harmful practice. Continuing to include trash incineration in the RPS inflates our progress towards clean energy goals and creates a false picture of

our emissions reductions. For years, we have touted Maryland as a leader in renewable energy, but our definition of “renewable” has been flawed as apparent from the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)’s inclusion of waste incineration as a renewable source of energy. As a ratepayer, my utility bill should not be used to subsidize waste incineration, let alone under the guise of “clean, renewable energy.” Trash burning is not renewable nor clean under any definition as it emits carbon dioxide, mercury, and lead, which are not safe at any level. For us to continue expending our money towards an entity that is burning trash while claiming to be renewable is a sham and an embarrassment. Dollars are tight and I feel that we should be more responsible and environmentally conscious of how ratepayers’ money is spent. I would prefer that this money be used on authentic, clean, renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, or hydropower. It also perpetuates environmental injustice, as these facilities disproportionately burden marginalized communities with harmful air and water pollution, including CO₂, mercury, and lead. These pollutants pose significant health risks and contribute to climate change. I experience the effects of this pollution firsthand, living near the Baltimore incinerator and regularly dealing with the accumulation of particulate matter. This is not a sustainable or healthy way to live.

That’s my take as a voter, homeowner, ratepayer, and an air breathing human. I hope you stand on the right side of history. I strongly urge you to pass SB0010 and show Marylanders that we are all serious about economic investment in clean energy, environmental justice, and a healthy future for our state. Let’s send a clear message that we will not be fooled by the greenwashing of dirty energy sources.

Sincerely,

Jeff Barnes

-
- (1) “Mercury exposure and children's health” (Bose-O'Reilly S, McCarty KM, Steckling N, Lettmeier B., 2010)
(2) “Lead in Food and Foodwares” (FDA, 2025)
(3)Public Employees for environmental Responsibility (PEER)
<https://peer.org/report-maryland-energy-subsidies-in-flames/#:~:text=Including%20trash%20incineration%20in%20the,likely%20at%20marked%2Dup%20rates.>

SB0010 - 74 Organization Sign On - FAVORABLE.pdf

Uploaded by: Jennifer Kunze

Position: FAV

74 Organization Sign On Testimony
Supporting SB0010
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
February 13, 2025

Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

The undersigned 74 community organizations; climate, environment, environmental justice, and economic justice groups; and businesses urge you to pass the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act to eliminate trash incineration from Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard and make tens of millions of additional dollars per year available to support renewable energy at no cost to the state budget.

Trash incineration is neither clean nor renewable energy. Trash incineration is among the dirtiest methods of producing electricity. [A 2023 study in PLOS Climate](#) found that "incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity produced than any other power source" - even coal plants. Incinerators emit mercury, lead, particulate matter 2.5 and 10, sulfur dioxide, nitrous oxide, and carbon monoxide, all of which pose [significant dangers to public health](#). Including trash incineration in Maryland's RPS does not deliver clean or renewable electricity to Marylanders. It only profits companies that pollute our communities.

Maryland is wasting an increasing amount of RPS money on trash incineration, and must fix the problem before expanding the RPS. Subsidies to trash incinerators through Maryland's RPS have ballooned from \$11.5 million in 2020 to \$24.3 million in 2023 - a cumulative \$75.4 million in 4 years. These subsidies go to the ReWorld incinerator in Lorton, VA, the ReWorld incinerator in Montgomery County, and the WIN Waste incinerator in Baltimore City, all of which operated for decades before receiving this subsidy and do not rely on it to operate. This trend of increasing subsidies makes it especially urgent to eliminate trash incineration from the Renewable Portfolio Standard before any measures to increase the program's mandate for renewable energy.

Passing SB10 will make more money available for renewable energy at no cost to the state budget. As Maryland faces budget cuts, we must ensure we put money we are already spending to its best use. When Maryland passes SB10, utilities currently using incinerator RECs for Maryland RPS compliance will purchase RECs from energy sources that remain eligible for the RPS (meaning more clean energy will be supported by Maryland's RPS) or pay Alternative Compliance Payments (funding that Maryland code designates for low-income renewable energy projects). In either case, that's better than throwing money away on incineration.

Forcing ratepayers to subsidize incinerators is an environmental and economic injustice.

Passing SB10 will not negatively impact ratepayers. While trash incineration is included in the Renewable Portfolio Standard, ratepayers are forced to subsidize incineration through their utility bills. Nearby residents harmed by pollution from incinerators are forced to subsidize and incentivize the facility harming them. Passing SB10 will end this economic injustice, and according to the [fiscal note](#) will not raise rates.

Impacted communities and local governments support SB10. Communities impacted by existing or proposed trash incinerators in Baltimore City, Montgomery County, Frederick County, and Carroll County have advocated for nearly a decade that trash incineration has no place in Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard. This year, Baltimore City Mayor Brandon Scott announced that the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act is among the [Baltimore City Administration's Supported Legislation](#). As local governments, businesses, and communities work to transition away from trash incineration and build healthier waste management infrastructure, the state government subsidizing and incentivizing incineration holds this work back.

Please pass the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act in 2025, invest more money in real renewable energy at no cost to the state budget, and end this longstanding environmental and economic injustice of calling trash incineration clean energy.

Sincerely,

Mid-Atlantic Justice Coalition

Walkiria Pool, Co-Anchor

South Baltimore Community Land Trust

Greg Sawtell, Zero Waste Just Transition Director

Sugarloaf Citizens Association

Steven Findlay, President

Clean Water Action

Jennifer Kunze, Maryland Organizing Director

Zero Waste Montgomery County

Susan Eisendrath, Chair

Progressive Maryland

SirJames Weaver, Environmental Justice Organizer

Food & Water Watch

Jorge Aguilar, Southern Region Director

Maryland League of Conservation Voters

Rebecca Rehr, Director, Climate Policy & Justice

League of Women Voters of Maryland

Linda Kohn, President

Chesapeake Climate Action Network

Brittany Baker, Maryland Director

Matthew Henson Community Development Corporation

Dr. Marvin L. Cheatham, Sr, C.E.O.

Neighborhood Sun

Gary Skulnik, Chief Executive Officer/Founder

Compost Crew

Ben Parry, CEO

Sierra Club Greater Baltimore Group

Deborah "Spice" Kleinmann, Chair

Community Development Network of Maryland

Claudia Wilson Randall, Executive Director

Maryland Legislative Coalition - Climate Justice Wing

Dave Arndt, Co-Chair

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Environmental Justice Ministry

Lee McNair, Member

Maryland Legislative Coalition

Cecilia Plante, Co-Chair

Sustainable Hyattsville

Greg Smith, Board Member

Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Phil Webster, Lead Advocate for Climate

350.org

Taylor Smith-Hams, US Senior Organizer

Namati

Jay Monteverde, Senior Advisor, US Environmental Justice Program

Centro de Apoyo Familiar

Valeria Menjivar, Healthy Families Assistant

Gwynns Falls Community Association

Christopher Schulze, President

Friends of Sligo Creek

Kit Gage, Advocacy Director

Indivisible HoCoMD Environmental Action

Peter Alexander, Co-Facilitator

Baltimore Jewish Council

Abby Snyder, Director of Government Relations

Echotopia LLC

Diane Wittner, Principal

Coal Kills Baltimore

John Scheinman, Co-Founder

HoCo Climate Action

Liz Feighner, Steering Committee

Baltimore 350

David Neun, Founder

Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home

Bob Simon, Member, Organizing Committee

Iglesia Manantiales de Agua Viva

Jose Ayala, Minister

Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVa)

Andrea Orozco, Advocacy Lead

ACQ (Ask the Climate Question)

Karen Metchis, Chair

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney

CASA

Jose Coronado Flores, Climate Policy Analyst

Reconnecting Communities in West

Baltimore Coalition

Min. Glenn Smith, President

Mobilize Frederick

Kathy Kinsey, Chair, Government Affairs Committee

Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (MC-FACS)

Stuart Simon, Advocacy Lead

Montgomery Countryside Alliance

Caroline Taylor, Executive Director

National Aquarium

Maggie Ostdahl, Senior Conservation Policy Manager

Concerned Citizens Against Industrial CAFOS (CCAIC)

Gabby Ross, Founder

Maryland Latinos Unidos

Carlos Orbe, Jr, Communications and Public Affairs Specialist

Climate Communications Coalition

Sonia Demiray, Executive Director

Envision Frederick County

Patrice Gallagher, Board Vice Chair

Blue Water Baltimore

Alice Volpitta, Baltimore Harbor Waterkeeper

Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group

Tom Taylor, Co-Chair

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility

Gwen L. Dubois MD, MPH, President

Institute for Local Self-Reliance

Brenda Platt, Director, Composting for Community Initiative

Environmental Justice Maryland

Zack Buster, Founder & Executive Director

Coal Free Curtis Bay

Andrew Hinz, Volunteer

Earthjustice

Susan Miller, Senior Attorney

Third Act Maryland

Cynthia Miller, Co-facilitator

Green Sanctuary, Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring

Doneby Smith, Liaison to the Montgomery County Climate Coalition

Potomac Riverkeeper Network

Betsy Nicholas, Vice President of Programs and Litigation

The Climate Mobilization Montgomery County

Karl Held, TCM Steering Committee member

1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East

Ricarra Jones, Political Director

High Note Consulting, LLC

Michael Dalto, President

Maryland Energy Advocates Coalition

Laurel Peltier, Chair

Center for Progressive Reform

Bryan Dunning, Senior Policy Analyst

Charm City Land Trusts

Cheryl Bryant, Executive Director

Climate Reality Greater Maryland

Frances Stewart, Chapter Chair

Elders Climate Action Maryland

Frances Stewart, Chapter Co-leader

Mountain Maryland Movement

Ann Bristow, Spokesperson

Out for Justice, Inc.

Trina Selden, Executive Director

Waterkeepers Chesapeake

Robin Broder, Acting Executive Director

Vernal Pool Partners

Mark Southerland PhD, Director

Safe Skies Maryland

Mark Southerland PhD, Legislative Director

Baltimore Phil Berrigan Memorial Veterans For Peace

Ellen E Barfield, Co-founder and Coordinator

Fellowship of Scientists and Engineers

Elizabeth Law, P.E. (retired), Chair

Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition (BTEC)

Samuel Jordan, President

The Crow's Nest

Leonardo Martinez-Diaz, Founder and Director

Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group

Tom Taylor, Co-Chair

MDE SB10 SUP .pdf

Uploaded by: Jeremy D. Baker

Position: FAV



The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain

Senate Bill 10

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

Position: Support

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Date: February 13, 2025

From: Jeremy D. Baker, Government Relations Director

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** SB 10.

Bill Summary

Beginning on January 1, 2025, SB 10 would amend Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio (RPS) definition of "Tier 1 renewable source" to remove waste-to-energy, refuse-derived fuel, and thermal energy from a thermal biomass system. The remaining eligible sources would be as follows: solar, wind, biomass, methane, geothermal, ocean energy, certain fuel cells, small hydroelectric plants, poultry litter-to-energy, thermal biomass systems, and wastewater used for heating or cooling.

Position Rationale

The legislation aligns with the department's proposal in Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan by better aligning the RPS to support cleaner energy sources, provide resources for clean energy investments, and address public health concerns. As this legislation ensures Maryland aligns its RPS with the broader goal of achieving net-zero emissions, the state needs to continue to find sustainable solutions for waste diversion to meet our climate goals.

Accordingly, MDE asks for a **FAVORABLE** report for SB 10.

SB0010 - Reclaim Renewable Energy Act - Support- J

Uploaded by: John Ford

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,**

I am a resident of **District 46**. I am in alliance with my neighbors in South Baltimore who have long been negligently or cruelly poisoned by coal, lead, industrial waste, and *burning trash*. I am an expectant new father and community member of Canton, which is not so far away from these hazards as we would like to think, and who desperately needs a sustainable world where we can properly provide energy renewably for all. This testimony is being submitted in collaboration with Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. It is also in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition, and I have been in contact and support of Progressive Maryland on this issue. **I am testifying in support of SB0010.**

Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard is intended to incentivize the conversion of more of our power grid to clean, renewable energy like wind and solar. Yet instead, a substantial amount of renewable energy credits come from burning trash: a method of energy generation that, far from being clean, fills the air with toxic pollutants, often in areas inhabited by the poor and marginalized who have limited ability to do anything about it. Instead of encouraging electricity providers to source more of their power from green sources and fostering the growth of renewable energy industries, Maryland is simply subsidizing a polluting industry at no benefit to the public.

Burning trash should never have been labeled a renewable energy source in the first place, and it is a shame and an embarrassment that year after year, we have continued this giveaway to trash incinerators in lieu of simply fixing this obvious and easily-resolvable flaw in the law. Now, when the budget crisis is forcing us to look closely at the value we are getting for every expenditure, is the perfect opportunity to make this change.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0010 - the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025** (Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations).

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

John Preston Ford

529 S East Ave, Baltimore, MD 21224

SUPPORT SB10 Remove Trash Incineration From RPS_FW

Uploaded by: Jorge Aguilar

Position: FAV



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foodandwaterwatch.org

Testimony In Support of Reclaim Renewable Energy Act - SB10

Position: Favorable

On behalf of the nonprofit Food & Water Watch and our 40,000 Maryland members, we are submitting this testimony in support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act, Senate Bill 10. Trash incineration should not be counted as 'renewable energy' source in our state that is eligible to receive ratepayer subsidies.

Originally, the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) was set up as an important tool to help meet ambitious climate goals in Maryland. But over the years, the program has been used as a waste management subsidy for trash incineration to the detriment of Maryland's residents and ratepayers.

A real RPS programs would speed up Maryland's transition to renewable energy to both decrease greenhouse gas emissions and emissions of other dangerous pollutants. In fact, [a new 2023 study in PLOS Climate](#) found that "incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity produced than *any* other power source."

Governor Moore and other leaders are also now proposing new goals as part of the state's new "Clean Energy Portfolio Standard" to set the state on a pathway to 100% clean energy by 2035. These new standards, however, should codify that trash incineration and other dirty energy are not defined as "clean" because that would mean that ratepayers would still be paying to subsidize trash incineration. By passing SB10, this antiquated energy policy can finally be removed from state law.

Ultimately, we must fix this unreasonable and irresponsible section in our state's energy policy because it is also costing ratepayer money that should be going, if anything, towards funding true renewables like wind or solar.

We urge you to vote "yes" on the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act, SB 10.

SB10 - CASA Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Jose Coronado Flores

Position: FAV



Testimony in SUPPORT of SB10
Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations
(Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)
Senate - Education, Energy, and Environment
Jose Coronado Flores, On Behalf of CASA

February 13, 2025

Dear Honorable Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

CASA is pleased to offer **favorable testimony in support of SB10 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)**. CASA is the largest immigrant services and advocacy organization in Maryland, and in the Mid-Atlantic region, with a membership of over 60,000 Black and Latino immigrants and working families in Maryland. We are here today because we are committed to achieving a just and equitable energy transition for our members where real renewable sources of energy are being promoted. We would like to thank the Senate President for his leadership on this bill.

SB10 is important legislation that will address the problematic inclusion of waste-to-energy power plants in the Maryland Renewable Energy Portfolio. Members of this committee know the statistics of the dangerous levels of air pollution the most marginalized communities of our state are forced to live with and can reason how subsidizing these polluting power plants alongside truly low-emitting sources of energy will slow our progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating the worse outcomes of an increasingly hot and unstable climate.

So what I'd like to add to your consideration for this vote is the story of one person harmed by the air pollution currently being subsidized as the law is now. Sandra Lovo is a CASA leader whose son was born with pulmonary hypertension because of her exposure to air pollution in South Baltimore. The majority of that pollution comes from the Bresco trash incinerator alone.

CASA urges the members of this committee to put themselves in Sandra's shoes and vote as if it were your little one who's tiny lungs were damaged and struggled to take in air, who's first month of life depended on a breathing tube, and who from that moment on needed to take medication daily to avoid an asthma attack.

CASA urges a favorable report for SB10 because any energy source that comes at the expense of a child's ability to breathe, like Sandra Lovo's son, is not a sustainable energy source that should receive investment and profit from Maryland taxpayers. Thank you.

Jose Coronado-Flores
jcoronado@wearecasa.org,
240-393-7840

SB0010_FAV_RCC.pdf

Uploaded by: Joy Reeves

Position: FAV



SB0010 - SUPPORT

Joy Reeves

The Rachel Carson Council

joy@rachelcarsoncouncil.org | 301-820-0986

**Rachel Carson Council's Support for SB0010: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources -
Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)**

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

February 13th, 2025

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

On behalf of The Rachel Carson Council (RCC), a national environmental justice nonprofit organization with a robust Maryland campus network, we urge a favorable report on SB0010.

Waste-burning energy does not belong in the Tier 1 renewable category alongside wind and solar within RPS; removing it is a logical step. The RCC has focused on false climate solutions in the past, including industrial-scale biomass energy plants in the southeastern U.S., which struggle to stay afloat due to outdated equipment, bankruptcy, pollution and permit violations, convoluted carbon accounting, and community opposition—yet have survived by being bolstered by taxpayer subsidies. We've seen their difficulties in meaningfully fulfilling Europe's RE Directive and now observe a similar misalignment in trash incineration within Maryland's RPS.

In Maryland, classifying waste-to-energy and refuse-derived fuel as a Tier 1 renewable source is counterintuitive. Trash incinerators release hundreds of thousands of tons of respiratory-harming PM2.5 and planet-warming carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, yet they are treated as equal to solar and wind plants in RPS. Trash incinerators have also been quintessentially unpopular among Marylanders for years. Maryland residents don't want to subsidize pollution by the millions of dollars (over \$300 million by 2030), nor to see the Governor's climate plans halfheartedly fulfilled through trash burning. We want clean air, pride in our cities like Baltimore, and responsibility with our tax dollars.

Both the BRESKO plant and the Dickerson plant have raised community concerns due to their emissions. Not only do Maryland's participating incinerators emit more CO2 than any other energy source in RPS, but they emit nitrous oxide, mercury, lead, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter. Baltimore's incinerator alone burdens Marylanders with \$55 million per year in health costs.

Profits and revenue statements from incinerator companies themselves reveal zero evidence that this bill would close their plants, nor would it pose actual waste management issues. According to its fiscal note, the bill "likely has a minimal impact on compliance costs and, by extension, a minimal impact on customer electricity rates. Therefore, the impact on expenditures on electricity for State and local governments and small businesses is also anticipated to be minimal."

CS Lewis famously said, "We all want progress, but if you're on the wrong road [...] the man who *turns back* soonest is the most progressive." **Please pass the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act as a step back in the right direction for Maryland.**

The Rachel Carson Council urges a favorable report on SB0010.

Testimony in Support of SB0010_Blaha_SURJ.pdf

Uploaded by: Katherine Blaha

Position: FAV

Tuesday, February 11, 2025



Showing Up for Racial Justice

Dear Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

I am submitting this testimony as a member of Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to mobilize white people in a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition (BTEC), a community-led group whose mission is to supplant structural racism in public transit policy with structural change and to attain equitable, reliable transit and greater environmental, social, and economic justice for the Baltimore region. I am a resident of Baltimore City. I am testifying in **support of SB0010- the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025.**

Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard is supposed to incentivize the conversion of more of our power grid to clean, renewable energy like wind and solar. Instead, a substantial amount of renewable energy credits come from burning trash, a method of energy generation that fills the air with toxic pollutants, often in areas inhabited by poor and marginalized people who have limited ability to do anything about it. It is hardly the clean energy the Renewable Portfolio Standard was intended to support. Instead of encouraging electricity providers to source more of their power from green sources and fostering the growth of renewable energy industries, Maryland is simply subsidizing a polluting industry that harms the public.

It hopefully goes without saying that *burning trash* should never have been labeled a renewable energy source in the first place. It is a shame and an embarrassment that year after year, we have continued to give away public funds to trash incinerators instead of fixing this obvious and easily-resolvable flaw in the law and diverting funding to actually environmentally friendly energy sources. Now that the budget crisis is forcing us to look closely at the value we are getting for every expenditure, this is the perfect opportunity to make this change.

I am therefore encouraging you to vote in **support** of **SB0010 - the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025** (Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations).

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Katherine Blaha
5706 Cross Country Blvd
Baltimore, MD 21209
Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Baltimore

MF_Reclaim Renewable Energy_SB10.pdf

Uploaded by: Kathy Kinsey

Position: FAV



Committee: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Testimony on: Senate Bill 10, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Organization: Mobilize Frederick

Submitting: Karen Cannon, Executive Director

Position: FAVORABLE

Hearing Date: February 13, 2025

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 10 — the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act. Mobilize Frederick strongly supports Senate Bill 10 and urges the Committee to issue a favorable report on this bill.

Mobilize Frederick is a nonprofit community advocacy organization formed to assist with implementing the recommendations of the 2021 Climate Response and Resilience Report (CRRR). The CRRR is a comprehensive climate action plan chartered by the City of Frederick and Frederick County designed to put Frederick City and County on the path to safer, healthier, and more resilient communities through innovative and effective local solutions to address climate change.

As an organization with climate-related progress at the forefront of our mission, we recognize that Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) is an important tool to support clean, renewable energy development and decrease emissions from the electricity sector. In an era of very tight budgets in Maryland, our state can increase support for actual clean energy by passing the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act, thereby preventing trash incineration from competing with solar, wind and other clean energy sources for the sale of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs).

Utilities currently using incinerator RECs to comply with Maryland's RPS will purchase RECs from the renewable energy sources that remain eligible for the RPS, or pay Alternative Compliance Payments (funding that Maryland law designates for low-income renewable energy projects). In either case, this will reallocate money to increase funding for clean renewable energy, with no cost to the state budget.

It's likely that most Marylanders would be surprised to learn that they are subsidizing trash incineration in their utility payments. They would be disappointed by the findings in the

EPA's Emissions Inventory: in 2020, the three trash incinerators profiting from Maryland's RPS emitted 2.5 million tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere, as well as mercury, lead, particulate matter (both PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀), sulfur dioxide, nitrous oxide, and carbon monoxide, all of which are dangerous to public health. SB 10 will redirect REC funds to real renewable energy that will not release pollutants and GHG emissions.

Please support public health and fiscal and climate responsibility by issuing a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 10, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

Karen Cannon
Executive Director

cc: Kathy Kinsey
Chair, Government Affairs and Policy Committee

RREA Written Testimony (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Khalia Young

Position: FAV

Bill Title: SB10 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Position: Favorable

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

From: Khalia Young , Member of No Boundaries Coalition

Date: 2/11/25

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB10, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (RREA) of 2025. My name is Khalia Young, a proud member of No Boundaries Coalition, which is an advocacy group that builds power in working-class communities in Baltimore City.

As a Baltimore City resident with a passion for improved community health and better informed residents, it is disheartening to learn that many of us are in fact, unknowingly contributing to the harmful impact of incineration with our tax dollars. I was previously unaware of how my electricity bill supported the financial gain of toxic incineration facilities across the state, particularly the Bresco incinerator. For four decades, this facility has emitted harmful chemicals that have disproportionately affected predominantly Black neighborhoods in South Baltimore, including Cherry Hill, Brooklyn, Westport, and Mount Winans, resulting in elevated rates of asthma and cancer.

From 2012 to 2022, electricity bills paid by Maryland ratepayers contributed over \$100 million to incineration efforts.¹ These funds ought to be directed towards genuine renewable energy sources like solar, geothermal, and hydro power. This aligns with the original intent of Maryland's renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

According to the Public Service Commission's 2022 report on Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS), energy companies allocated significant funds to acquire Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) from three incinerators. Specifically, they invested \$8,776,070 for 382,233 RECs from the Montgomery County incinerator, \$4,203,999 for 183,101 RECs from Wheelabrator in Baltimore, and \$11,733,532 for 511,045 RECs from Covanta Fairfax.²

As a ratepayer, I am disenchanted by this high level of financial exploitation, and it is clear that incineration has clearly become a financial liability to our state's RPS. Once incineration is removed from RPS more REC's would go to support clean energy projects. The writing is clearly on the wall, it's time to pass the RREA and remove

¹ "Report: Maryland's energy subsidies are going up in flames." peer.org. Last modified March 5, 2024. <https://peer.org/report-maryland-energy-subsidies-in-flames/>.

² "Report: Maryland's energy subsidies are going up in flames." peer.org. Last modified March 5, 2024. <https://peer.org/report-maryland-energy-subsidies-in-flames/>.

incineration from RPS.

SB 10 - MDLCV SUPPORT - Reclaim Renewable Energy A

Uploaded by: Kim Coble

Position: FAV



Kim Coble
Executive Director

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Bonnie L. Norman

February 13, 2025

SUPPORT - SB 10 - Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV supports SB 10, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025, and thanks the Senate President, Senator Lewis Young, and Senator Simonaire for introducing this bill. Removing municipal waste incineration from the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) is a community-driven initiative that makes better use of state funds to support a clean energy economy.

In 2011, Maryland added waste incineration to our state's RPS, making it eligible for the same state investments and renewable energy credits as truly renewable sources, such as wind and solar. Harmful byproducts of waste incineration include particulate matter, heavy metals like lead and mercury, and dioxins. This burden of toxic air pollution is borne most heavily in the communities surrounding an incinerator, leading to significant negative health impacts and higher costs for already overburdened and underserved communities.

The [Maryland Climate Pollution Reduction Plan](#) written by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) was released on December 28, 2023. Among the policy recommendations included in the plan are revising the definitions of "qualifying resources in the RPS program to align with definitions of clean power resources under the forthcoming Clean Power Standard, **including the elimination of eligibility for municipal solid waste incineration.**"

In addition, the [Maryland Commission on Climate Change 2023 Annual Report](#) includes the following recommendation: "Remove municipal solid waste incineration as an eligible source in the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) due to the energy source's contributions to the state's GHG emissions, the General Assembly should adopt legislation to remove municipal solid waste incineration as an eligible generating source from the RPS."

Maryland has the opportunity now to implement a key piece of this recommendation by removing municipal solid waste incineration from the RPS definition. This would make the credits and investments available for truly renewable energy at a time when we are putting additional legislative measures forward to ensure resource adequacy and grid reliability.

Maryland LCV urges a favorable report on this important bill.

SB0010 (HB0022) - FAV - Renewable Energy Portfolio

Uploaded by: Landon Fahrig

Position: FAV



Maryland

Energy Administration

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: MEA

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

DATE: February 13, 2025

MEA Position: FAVORABLE

This bill would alter the definition of a “Tier 1 renewable source” and exclude energy derived from waste and refuse as eligible for inclusion in the renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS).

The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) supports significant efforts to invest in the State’s climate pollution reduction goals. This legislation represents a necessary adjustment to the RPS that prioritizes the state’s clean energy future, and MEA is supportive of this policy as it was highlighted in Maryland’s Climate Pollution Reduction Plan.

The intent of the RPS is to invest in the advancement of clean energy solutions in the state that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support sustainability. This legislation will ensure that measured investments are doing just that as the state works to develop and implement a more robust, long-term waste diversion solution.

By eliminating trash incineration from the renewable portfolio standard, Maryland can align its RPS with the broader goals of achieving net-zero emissions and investing more in clean energy sources.

For these reasons, MEA urges the committee to issue a **favorable report**.

Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this testimony. For questions or additional information, please contact Megan Outten at megan.outten@maryland.gov or 443.842.1780.

SB0010_Reclaim Renewables Act_EEE_CJW FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Laurie McGilvray

Position: FAV



Committee: Education, Energy and the Environment
Testimony on: SB0010 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible
Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)
Organization: Climate Justice Wing of the Maryland Legislative Coalition
Submitting: Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 13, 2024

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025 (SB010). The Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of nearly 30 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on SB010.

SB010 will clean up the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) by retaining subsidies for truly renewable energy sources and removing subsidies for a problematic dirty energy source, i.e., trash incineration. As Maryland moves aggressively toward meeting its ambitious greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals, we need to align all available incentives toward renewable sources of energy and stop incentivizing polluting sources like trash incineration.

Trash incineration was only added to Tier 1 of the RPS in 2011, making it part of the same subsidized category as wind and solar. Maryland needs to stop wasting money subsidizing trash incineration, especially considering that the subsidies from Maryland's RPS have grown from \$11.5 million in 2020 to \$24.3 million in 2023; i.e., a total of \$75.4 million in 4 years. Just think where we would be if these funds had gone to truly renewable energy sources – we would be closer to meeting our GHG reduction goals.

The Maryland Commission on Climate Change and Governor Moore agree. The Governor's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, released in December 2023, included recommendations to remove trash incineration from the RPS. We must put our money where our mouth is by focusing on wind and solar energy.

Finally, it is important to acknowledge that trash incineration is not “clean energy” and does not belong in the RPS. In 2015, the Baltimore incinerator emitted on average about twice as much GHG per unit energy produced as each of the coal plants located in Maryland. In addition, air pollution from waste incinerators increase the risk of pre-term births, cancers of the blood and

lung, and emergency room visits. According to a Chesapeake Bay Foundation commissioned study, fine particulate matter emitted from the Baltimore “waste-to-energy” facility causes over \$55 million in adverse health effects annually.

The Climate Justice Wing supports policies that benefit overburdened and underserved communities, which have historically sustained disproportionate environmental harm. The South Baltimore communities closest to the incinerator are truly overburdened by multiple pollution sources, including the incinerator. This polluting source of energy should not be receiving a renewable energy subsidy intended to promote the generation of clean and healthy renewable energy.

By removing trash incineration from the RPS, Maryland will better direct its subsidies to the truly renewable energy sources of the future. We strongly support SB010 and urge a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.

350MoCo
Adat Shalom Climate Action
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry
Chesapeake Earth Holders
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
Climate Parents of Prince George's
Climate Reality Project
ClimateXChange – Rebuild Maryland Coalition
Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County
Echotopia
Elders Climate Action
Fix Maryland Rail
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
Greenbelt Climate Action Network
HoCoClimateAction
IndivisibleHoCoMD
Maryland Legislative Coalition
Mobilize Frederick
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Mountain Maryland Movement
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
Progressive Maryland
Safe & Healthy Playing Fields
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
WISE

sb10 altering renewable energy standards EEE 2-13-

Uploaded by: Lee Hudson

Position: FAV



Delaware-Maryland Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Testimony prepared for the
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
on
Senate Bill 10
February 13, 2025
Position: **Favorable**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to speak about caring for creation. I am Lee Hudson, assistant to the bishop for public policy in the Delaware-Maryland Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are a faith community with three judicatories located in every part of our State.

The ELCA made stewardship of natural gifts a subject for the practice of faith in our community in 1993 ("Caring for Creation," ELCA). In addition to health and safety for all things living, decarbonizing became a goal of our public advocacy.

Biomasses are byproducts of several agricultural and natural resource industries, and thus renewable in some measure, they still generate greenhouse gas when burned. Burning them, while "renewable" in that expanded definition, still frustrates the effort to reduce carbon emissions.

Burning abundant material such as packaging retrieved from trash to produce energy eludes any rational, objective definition of "green". They are "renewable" only in that they remain plentiful. Burning trash will never produce clean energy.

Twenty years further on from its improbable inclusion in Maryland's renewable energy portfolio (included because it was leveraged as the only way to have a renewable portfolio) it's time to clean it up. We therefore support **Senate Bill 10** and urge your favorable report.

Lee Hudson

SB0010 - Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Lindsay Keipper

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition. I am a resident of **District 46**, and **I am testifying in support of SB0010.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard is intended to incentivize the conversion of more of our power grid to clean, renewable energy like wind and solar. Yet instead, a substantial amount of renewable energy credits come from burning trash: a method of energy generation that, far from being clean, fills the air with toxic pollutants, often in areas inhabited by the poor and marginalized who have limited ability to do anything about it. Instead of encouraging electricity providers to source more of their power from green sources and fostering the growth of renewable energy industries, Maryland is simply subsidizing a polluting industry at no benefit to the public.

Burning trash should never have been labeled a renewable energy source in the first place, and it is a shame and an embarrassment that year after year, we have continued this giveaway to trash incinerators in lieu of simply fixing this obvious and easily-resolvable flaw in the law. Now, when the budget crisis is forcing us to look closely at the value we are getting for every expenditure, is the perfect opportunity to make this change.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0010 - the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025** (Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations).

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Lindsay Keipper
2425 Fleet St., Baltimore
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

SB0010_FAV_Reclaim Renewable Act_EEE_HoCoCA.pdf

Uploaded by: Liz Feighner

Position: FAV



HoCoClimateAction.org
Howard County, Maryland

SB0010: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)

Hearing Date: February 13, 2025

Bill Sponsor: Senator Ferguson

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Submitting: Liz Feighner for **HoCo Climate Action**

Position: Favorable

HoCo Climate Action is a 350.org local chapter and a grassroots organization representing approximately 1,400 subscribers. It is also a member of the [Climate Justice Wing](#) of the [Maryland Legislative Coalition](#).

Howard County Climate Action **supports SB0010, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025** and we urge you to pass SB0010 to stop wasting Maryland residents' money on trash incinerators and make more funding available for real renewable energy - at no additional cost to the state budget. We were actively involved helping the Baltimore student-led [Free Your Voice](#) stop a trash incinerator in Curtis Bay in 2013 which prevented more wasted RPS funds on another trash incinerator. This issue is very important to our organization because trash incineration is neither clean nor renewable; its inclusion in the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) is counter to the program's goals.

With utility rates that keep rising in Maryland, ratepayers would be better served if their funds currently wasted on subsidizing trash incineration were instead supporting real renewable energy, such as wind, solar and geothermal.

The purpose of the RPS is to support clean, renewable energy, which Maryland needs now more than ever. When establishing the RPS in 2004, the legislature wrote that the benefits of renewable energy include "long-term decreased emissions" and "a healthier environment." Trash incineration was only added to Tier 1 of the RPS in 2011, making it part of the same subsidized category as wind and solar. Rate payers should not be providing a *windfall* for trash incinerators by subsidizing them and should be providing funds for true clean energy like *wind, solar and geothermal*.

Maryland is wasting an increasing amount of RPS money on trash incineration, much of it out of state. Over three years, due to the market-based nature of the subsidy (the amount of electricity produced by incinerators has not increased), the total subsidies to trash incinerators through Maryland's RPS ballooned from \$11.5 million in 2020 to \$24.7 million in 2022. In 2022, the BRESKO incinerator in Baltimore received \$4.2 million; the Montgomery County incinerator

in Dickerson received \$8.7 million, and the Covanta incinerator in Lorton, VA, received a windfall of \$11.7 million - twice as much as Montgomery County's incinerator and three times as much as the incinerator in Baltimore. If these trends continue and trash incineration remains in the RPS, Maryland ratepayers will be increasingly harmed: we will be wasting ever-increasing amounts of money, much of it out of state, that isn't putting renewable power on the grid.

Trash incineration is not clean, renewable energy and is contradictory to the goals of the RPS and Maryland's Climate Plans. Trash incineration is among the dirtiest methods of producing electricity. [A new 2023 study in PLOS Climate](#) found that "incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity produced than *any* other power source" - even coal plants. [EPA's Emissions Inventory](#) indicates that in 2020, the three trash incinerators profiting from Maryland's RPS emitted 2.5 million tons of CO2 into the atmosphere. Maryland Department of the Environment's [Climate Pollution Reduction Plan](#) recommends aligning the RPS with the forthcoming Clean Power Standard which clearly states the standard will not include trash incineration. **Maryland Commission on Climate Change's [2023 Annual Report](#)** recommends removing municipal solid waste incineration as an eligible generating source from the RPS.

We strongly believe this bill should be limited to removal of RPS subsidies for trash incineration. Maryland is developing a Clean Energy Standard this year, so we oppose adding any new energy sources to RPS subsidies. Any suggestions to add to the RPS that may come from energy developers should be rejected.

We urge a **favorable report for SB0010**.

Howard County Climate Action
Submitted by Liz Feighner, Steering Advocacy Committee
www.HoCoClimateAction.org
HoCoClimateAction@gmail.com

SB 10 Reclaim Renewable Energy.pdf

Uploaded by: Loraine Arikat

Position: FAV



Testimony on SB10/ HB 220

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

Position: Favorable

To Chair Senator Brian Feldman and the members of the committee;

My name is Ricarra Jones, and I am the Political Director of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers-East. We are the largest healthcare workers union in the country, representing over 10,000 members in Maryland/DC. Our union supports the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act 2024, and we urge a favorable report. Passing this bill is critical to achieving our state's goals of reaching 100% clean energy and will improve community health.

The Baltimore BRESKO trash incinerator turns garbage from Baltimore City and local counties into air pollution, toxic ash, and emissions that have a negative impact on local residents' health and accelerate climate change. The communities abutting the incinerator, including Westport, Cherry Hill, and Brooklyn, are primarily Black and Brown. Residents go to the hospital more frequently than individuals who live elsewhere in Maryland and are five times more likely to have asthma. This is environmental injustice and racism in action. Our state sends tens of millions of dollars each year in subsidies to trash incinerators that emit greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution in overburdened communities. In 2022, BRESKO received \$5.7 million in RPS subsidies and emitted 653,000 tons of carbon dioxide.

The solution to this problem is ending subsidies for trash incineration and implementing cleaner, cheaper alternatives that create green jobs and limit pollution. Studies conducted in Baltimore show that investing in waste management strategies such as composting and recycling can save money and create good quality employment opportunities. For every non-unionized job created at a trash incinerator, nine union jobs could be created at a recycling facility, and four at a composting facility. Replacing the Baltimore incinerator with a composting facility could replace existing jobs with [higher paying green jobs](#). According to a [report](#) from Global Anti-Incineration Alliance, implementing zero waste policies can create 200 times more jobs than landfills and incinerators.

The majority of 1199SEIU members are People of Color. As we can see, this is not just an environmental issue, but a social one as well. For too long, these communities have been taken advantage of, and their health has been the cost. Maryland also faces a dangerous

staffing crisis across the healthcare industry. Passing this bill can help reduce the burden on healthcare workers, particularly in our hospitals, by alleviating the number of patients that flood healthcare facilities due to preventable illnesses caused by toxins in our environment from dirty energy sources. Toxins from trash incineration, biogas from factory farms, and woody biomass are linked to healthcare ailments such as asthma, cancer, reproductive disorders, and other negative health impacts.

For the sake of our people and our planet, we encourage a favorable report on the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act 2025. Thank you.

In Unity,

Ricarra Jones
Political Director
1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers-East
Ricarra.jones@1199.org

SB 10 - National Aquarium - Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Maggie Ostdahl

Position: FAV



NATIONAL AQUARIUM®

Date: February 13, 2025

Bill: SB 10 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)

Position: Support

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee:

The National Aquarium respectfully requests a favorable report for SB 10 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025), which would redefine “Tier 1 renewable source” of energy and exclude energy derived from waste and refuse as eligible for inclusion in the renewable energy portfolio standard.

The National Aquarium connects people with nature to inspire conservation action, through a holistic, solutions-focused approach, which includes translating ocean and climate science, building resilience through community empowerment, implementing nature-based solutions, and reducing our own carbon footprint. Our work is guided by three overarching goals to combat climate change, stop plastic pollution, and save wildlife and habitats. The National Aquarium is committed to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2035. Reaching this target requires the state to increase its renewable energy production from sources that are truly clean and renewable, such as wind and solar. Labeling trash incineration as “renewable” detracts from Maryland’s ability to transition to truly renewable sources of energy and is counterproductive to attaining the state’s ambitious climate goals.

Trash incineration not only exacerbates climate change; it is also linked to the plastic pollution crisis. Municipalities in Maryland, like others around the nation and the world, are unable to keep up with the increasing production of plastic and both the monetary costs and environmental impacts when plastic ends up in landfills or incinerators. Trash incineration adds greenhouse gas emissions and harmful air pollution to the atmosphere while also disincentivizing better waste management practices including source reduction, reuse systems, recycling, and composting. To make matters worse, trash incinerators are often located in underserved and overburdened communities. It is long overdue for the state to stop subsidizing smokestacks in communities where environmental justice must be a priority.

It is incumbent that governments at every level focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions rapidly while prioritizing a just transition away from fossil fuels. Now more than ever, the state of Maryland can and should build on its climate and environmental justice leadership. The legislature must clarify that burning trash is not clean energy and should not be subsidized by ratepayers.

We urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 10.

Contact:

Ryan Fredriksson

Vice President, Government Affairs

410-385-8276

rfredriksson@aqua.org

Maggie Ost Dahl

Sr. Conservation Policy Manager

410-385-8275

mostdahl@aqua.org

SB0010_MDSierraClub_fav_13February2025.pdf

Uploaded by: Mariah Shriner

Position: FAV



SIERRA CLUB

MARYLAND CHAPTER

P.O. Box 278
Riverdale, MD 20738

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Testimony on: SB 0010, Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)

Position: Support

Hearing Date: February 13, 2025

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club urges a favorable report on SB 0010, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025. This bill will remove incineration of municipal solid waste (trash) from Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), removing an unwarranted subsidy and moving the state towards its goals of truly clean, renewable energy.

Electricity generation from trash incineration is a significant source of air pollution, water pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions. The RPS was created to incentivize clean renewable energy and help Maryland transition away from polluting technologies. Trash incineration is neither clean nor renewable, and incentivizing this polluting technology is inconsistent with state goals and a waste of ratepayer dollars.

Trash incineration is not clean or renewable – it emits climate-disrupting carbon dioxide and other pollutants that cause serious damage to Marylanders' health. Incineration facilities typically emit more carbon dioxide, dioxin, mercury, nitrogen oxide, and lead than fossil fuel plants. Their residual ash contains high concentrations of harmful toxins including dioxin, mercury, lead, and other heavy metals; these high concentrations can rapidly leach into local soil and water.

The trash incinerator in downtown Baltimore is one of the largest sources of air pollution in the city, producing about a third of all industrial air pollution in Baltimore. It emits a substantial amount of mercury and lead – both known to be critical threats to children's neurological development. It is also the city's single largest source of pollutants that cause respiratory disease, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides (NOx). Sulfur dioxide causes acute respiratory irritation, triggering immediate worsening for anyone with an underlying pulmonary disorder, such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Nitrogen oxides contribute to childhood asthma and are the major source of ground-level ozone (smog) formations that trigger asthma attacks.

The RPS should be focused on accelerating the deployment of *new*, clean renewable energy facilities. Both trash incinerators in Maryland, which currently receive incentives through the RPS, began operations well before the RPS's first compliance year, 2006. The Covanta incinerator in Dickerson, Maryland began commercial operation in 1995, and the Wheelabrator incinerator in downtown Baltimore began operation in the 1980s. Maryland's RPS dollars also have been supporting a Covanta incinerator in Fairfax County, Virginia, which began commercial operations in 1990. Subsidizing polluting facilities that existed before the RPS was created does not advance the goals of Maryland or serve its residents.

Continued investment in trash incineration is not in line with Maryland's climate or clean energy goals. With the passage of the Climate Solutions Now Act, Maryland committed to an

Founded in 1892, the Sierra Club is America's oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization. The Maryland Chapter has over 70,000 members and supporters, and the Sierra Club nationwide has over 800,000 members and nearly four million supporters.

ambitious goal of reducing greenhouse gases by 60% by the year 2031. The 2023 Maryland Climate Action Plan and Governor Moore's June 2024 Executive Order both reiterated the state's movement towards clean energy, articulating a goal of 100% clean renewable electricity generation by 2035. In a year with heightened attention to the state budget and ratepayer impacts, the state should also look towards opportunities, like SB 0010, to realign existing incentives with state policies and goals. The fiscal note also notes that SB 0010 will have a minimal impact on ratepayers.

The Sierra Club has long advocated that state policy should not incentivize any type of combustion. Removing trash incineration from the RPS is a critical step towards Maryland's long-term clean energy goals.

For these reasons, the Maryland Sierra Club urges a favorable report on SB 0010.

Mariah Shriner
Climate Campaign Representative
Mariah.Shriner@MDSierra.org

Josh Tulkin
Chapter Director
Josh.Tulkin@MDSierra.org

SB0010_ProgressiveMaryland_MaryRandall_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Mary Randall

Position: FAV



Bill Title: SB0010 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025

Position: SUPPORT (FAV)

To: Honorable Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and the members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee.

From: Mary Randall, Community Member, on behalf of Progressive Maryland

Date: 02/11/2025

I'm Mary Randall, a lifetime resident of Westport in District 46, and I spoke before this committee last year defending the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (RREA) on behalf of Progressive Maryland's Environmental Justice Task Force. Today, I am endorsing this bill once again.

I live in the neighborhood of Westport which unfortunately borders the BRESKO incinerator, also known as WIN Waste. As a result of this close proximity, my two best friends and many members of my community and neighborhood developed cancer and died as a result of breathing in the toxic fumes of the incinerator. I also developed cancer in my left kidney and was able to beat it, but I am still currently suffering from a chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) since I live next to BRESKO. It is clear that waste incineration is not a clean, renewable energy source given that it deteriorates my community's health.

Although Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard Program (RPS) was established in 2004 to promote renewable energy sources like solar, geothermal, and hydropower, I was shocked to learn that our former governor Martin O'Malley and lawmakers passed legislation in 2011 to allow incineration into the RPS. This demonstrates how incineration companies have been prioritized over community members like myself. With passage of the RREA, Maryland will be on par with other states in combating climate change and prioritizing community health. Incineration must be eliminated from the RPS as a precursor to Maryland's transition to 100% clean energy. Passage of the RREA will make more money available for investment in clean, renewable energy sources such as solar, geothermal, and wind turbine power.

I want my monthly energy bill to finance these clean sources of energy instead of polluting sources of energy like trash incineration which release highly toxic pollutants into our environment and adversely impact my health.

The time has come to liberate the people of South Baltimore from financing a highly toxic, non-green incinerator like BRESKO and I know I can count on my legislators to do so. Senate President Bill Ferguson, who is also my representative, is a co-sponsor of the RREA. It is evident that this will be the year that the paradigm shift my community and representatives desire comes into fruition through the passage of the RREA.

I wholeheartedly endorse this legislation and sincerely thank you all for your time.

SB 10 - CBF - FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Matt Stegman

Position: FAV



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

**Senate Bill 10
Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources – Alterations
(Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)**

Date: February 13, 2025
To: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Position: **FAVORABLE**
From: Gussie Maguire,
MD Staff Scientist

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** SB 10, which removes waste-to-energy incineration as a Tier 1 source of renewable energy.

Chesapeake Bay Program studies have determined that one-third of the nitrogen pollution that ends up in the water comes from [air pollution](#). Waste-to-energy incineration facilities emit tons of nitrogen oxides from their stacks each year: this air pollution is carried to the Bay and its tributaries as soon as it rains. Negative health outcomes from exposure to particulate matter and other air pollutants are well documented, and shown to disproportionately affect low-income communities, for example the Curtis Bay community in Baltimore City.

While we understand that, from an economic standpoint, it may be difficult for local governments to end their relationships with facilities like the Wheelabrator in Baltimore City, it does not make sense for the State to continue to subsidize incinerator facilities through the renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS). The contributions to both air and water pollution of waste-to-energy incinerators are contrary to the spirit of the RPS program, negatively affecting the Bay and Marylanders.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on SB 10.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

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Maryland Office • Philip Merrill Environmental Center • 6 Herndon Avenue • Annapolis • Maryland • 21403

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.

Badeker_SB0010 - Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.pdf

Uploaded by: Melissa Badeker

Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition. I am a resident of District 8. I am testifying in support of SB0010.



Showing Up for Racial Justice

Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard is intended to incentivize the conversion of more of our power grid to clean, renewable energy like wind and solar. Yet instead, a substantial amount of renewable energy credits come from burning trash: a method of energy generation that, far from being clean, fills the air with toxic pollutants, often in areas inhabited by the poor and marginalized who have limited ability to do anything about it. Instead of encouraging electricity providers to source more of their power from green sources and fostering the growth of renewable energy industries, Maryland is simply subsidizing a polluting industry at no benefit to the public.

Burning trash should never have been labeled a renewable energy source in the first place, and it is a shame and an embarrassment that year after year, we have continued this giveaway to trash incinerators in lieu of simply fixing this obvious and easily-resolvable flaw in the law. Now, when the budget crisis is forcing us to look closely at the value we are getting for every expenditure, is the perfect opportunity to make this change.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote in support of SB0010 - the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025 (Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations).

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Melissa Badeker
3020 Linwood Avenue, Parkville MD 21234
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

SB 149_FAV_Livermore.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Livermore

Position: FAV

January 21, 2025

I am a law professor at the University of Virginia and an expert on environmental law and economics. I offer my views on the RENEW Act currently under consideration, and in particular, any concerns that fees under the law would be passed on to consumers via increased gas prices.

Stated simply, the fees proposed in the RENEW Act are based on past greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution and therefore would not impact today's marginal cost of production, so there should be no shifting of costs to consumers.

In our market economy, companies charge prices that maximize their profits based on the cost of production and demand. The proposed assessment is based on past GHG emissions so it would not affect future production costs. It is a fixed cost. Companies would not pass this costs to consumers, the assessment would be borne by their shareholders.

Stated another way, the assessments will not impact the revenue-maximizing price or the quantity of fossil fuel produced. Since companies are already charging the profit maximizing price, they cannot pass on the cost of the assessment to consumers by increasing prices without decreasing their profits.

Moreover, the likely impacted companies have been remarkably profitable. The world's largest oil companies have made large profits in the last few years. The largest Western fossil fuel companies and Saudi Aramco collectively earned about \$1 trillion in profits between January 2021 and today.

An Institute for Policy Integrity report on a similar law adopted in New York State found that "Economic theory shows that holding oil companies liable for past emissions will not lead to production or price changes in the local, national, or international energy markets, holding the structure of these markets constant. Empirical evidence shows that total compensatory payments for emissions from 2000 to 2018 are relatively small compared to oil company revenue, market capitalization, and profits."

The RENEW ACT is a fiscally responsible and fair approach that protects taxpayers by shifting the burden of some of those costs to the companies most responsible. The funds would allow the state of Maryland to invest in infrastructure improvements, upgrade stormwater drainage and sewage treatment systems, prepare the power grid for severe weather, create systems to protect people from extreme heat, and respond to environmental and public health threats.

The bill is based on the rationale underpinning the existing Federal and State Superfund laws that make toxic polluters financially responsible for the environmental damages that they have caused. In the same way, climate polluters should share in the financial responsibility to cover damages caused by a worsening climate.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Livermore
Professor of Law
University of Virginia

_SB10_Progressive Maryland_Michelle_Favorable .pdf

Uploaded by: Michelle Duberry

Position: FAV



Bill Title: SB10 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Position: Favorable

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

From: Michelle Duberry , Member of Progressive Maryland

Date: 2/11/25

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB10, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (RREA) of 2025. My name is Shenae Thomas, a proud member of Progressive Maryland, which is a statewide advocacy group that builds power in working-class communities in Maryland.

As a resident of Halethorpe in Baltimore county, I was previously unaware of how my electricity bill supported the financial gain of toxic incineration facilities across the state, particularly the Bresco incinerator. For four decades, this facility has emitted harmful chemicals that have disproportionately affected predominantly Black neighborhoods in South Baltimore, including Cherry Hill, Brooklyn, Westport, and Mount Winans, resulting in elevated rates of asthma and cancer.

From 2012 to 2022, electricity bills paid by Maryland ratepayers contributed over \$100 million to incineration efforts.¹ These funds ought to be directed towards genuine renewable energy sources like solar, geothermal, and hydro power. This aligns with the original intent of Maryland's renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

According to the Public Service Commission's 2022 report on Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS), energy companies allocated significant funds to acquire Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) from three incinerators. Specifically, they invested \$8,776,070 for 382,233 RECs from the Montgomery County incinerator, \$4,203,999 for 183,101 RECs from Wheelabrator in Baltimore, and \$11,733,532 for 511,045 RECs from Covanta Fairfax.²

As a ratepayer, I am disenchanted by this high level of financial exploitation, and it is clear that incineration has clearly become a financial liability to our state's RPS. Once incineration is removed from RPS more REC's would go to support clean energy projects. The writing is clearly on the wall, it's time to pass the RREA and remove incineration from RPS.

¹ "Report: Maryland's energy subsidies are going up in flames." peer.org. Last modified March 5, 2024. <https://peer.org/report-maryland-energy-subsidies-in-flames/>.

² "Report: Maryland's energy subsidies are going up in flames." peer.org. Last modified March 5, 2024. <https://peer.org/report-maryland-energy-subsidies-in-flames/>.

MaryPIRG Students - SB0010 Testimony_ Favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Miguel Macaso

Position: FAV

Bill Title: SB10 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Position: Favorable

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

From: First & last name, Member of MaryPIRG Students

Date: 2/11/25

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB10, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (RREA) of 2025. My name is **Miguel Macaso**, a proud member of MaryPIRG Students, a grassroots advocacy organization at the University of Maryland- College Park.

As a Maryland resident, I was previously unaware of how my electricity bill supported the financial gain of toxic incineration facilities across the state, particularly the Bresco incinerator. For four decades, this facility has emitted harmful chemicals that have disproportionately affected predominantly Black neighborhoods in South Baltimore, including Cherry Hill, Brooklyn, Westport, and Mount Winans, resulting in elevated rates of asthma and cancer.

From 2012 to 2022, electricity bills paid by Maryland ratepayers contributed over \$100 million to incineration efforts.¹ These funds ought to be directed towards genuine renewable energy sources like solar, geothermal, and hydro power. This aligns with the original intent of Maryland's renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

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As a ratepayer, I am disenchanted by this high level of financial exploitation, and it is clear that incineration has clearly become a financial liability to our state's RPS. Once incineration is removed from RPS more REC's would go to support clean energy projects. The writing is clearly on the wall, it's time to pass the RREA and remove incineration from RPS.

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Copy of RREA Testimony TEMPLATE [MAKE A COPY!].doc

Uploaded by: Minal Khokhar

Position: FAV

MARYPIRG

Students

Bill Title: SB10 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Position: Favorable

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

From: Minal, Member of MaryPIRG Students

Date: 2/11/25

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB10, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (RREA) of 2025. My name is Minal, a proud member of MaryPIRG Students, a grassroots advocacy organization at the University of Maryland- College Park.

As a Maryland resident, I was previously unaware of how my electricity bill supported the financial gain of toxic incineration facilities across the state, particularly the Bresco incinerator. For four decades, this facility has emitted harmful chemicals that have disproportionately affected predominantly Black neighborhoods in South Baltimore, including Cherry Hill, Brooklyn, Westport, and Mount Winans, resulting in elevated rates of asthma and cancer.

From 2012 to 2022, electricity bills paid by Maryland ratepayers contributed over \$100 million to incineration efforts.¹ These funds ought to be directed towards genuine renewable energy sources like solar, geothermal, and hydro power. This aligns with the original intent of Maryland's renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

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As a ratepayer, I am disenchanted by this high level of financial exploitation, and it is clear that incineration has clearly become a financial liability to our state's RPS. Once incineration is removed from RPS more REC's would go to support clean energy projects. The writing is clearly on the wall, it's time to pass the RREA and remove incineration from RPS.

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² "Report: Maryland's energy subsidies are going up in flames." peer.org. Last modified March 5, 2024. <https://peer.org/report-maryland-energy-subsidies-in-flames/>.

Reclaim energy.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Childs

Position: FAV

Testimony Supporting SB10
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
February 13, 2025

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

As a resident with asthma of district 7 and member of The Sunrise Movement, I am writing to express my strong support of SB10, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

We need to be funding renewable energy development and taking the climate crisis seriously. The RPS is an important tool to support clean, renewable energy development and decrease emissions from the electricity sector, and it's important to ensure that our money is being invested wisely. Maryland absolutely must not leave trash incineration in the mix- it will compound the damage to local governments' transition away from trash incineration and make Maryland's Clean Energy. We won't truly reach 100% clean energy if polluters like trash incineration are in the mix. Spending our renewable energy subsidies on trash incineration doesn't get Maryland clean energy, it doesn't put more energy on the grid, and it doesn't even keep energy on the grid - all of the incinerators profiting from Maryland's RPS operated for decades before starting to get this subsidy.

As I stated, I have asthma. Within the past two months I have had to change inhalers over four times and have continued to struggle to breathe despite my doctors trying other medications. Not only this, but my children both have asthma as well that has been worsening and more than me, their oxygen is my top priority. I want them to enjoy our lives in Baltimore and get to play outside freely without fear of their ability to breathe being even more hindered. They've watched me struggle these past months and I have been deeply afraid them.

SB0010-SUP- EEE.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

SB0010

February 23, 2025

TO: Members of the Senate Energy, Education and the Environment Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: Senate Bill 10 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources – Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)

POSITION: Support

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Members of the Energy, Education & Environment Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 10.

SB 10 redefines Tier 1 renewable sources such that the definition is better aligned with goals to reduce the emission of greenhouse gasses in the 2024 Climate Pollution Reduction Plan. These changes help to prioritize renewable energy subsidies for evidence-based renewable energy generation such as solar, wind, and hydro energy.

Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) has an explicit goal to “*recognize and develop the benefits associated with a diverse collection of renewable energy supplies. The State's RPS Program does this by recognizing the environmental and consumer benefits associated with renewable energy.*” Through the RPS, electricity suppliers are required to meet a minimum amount of renewable energy within their sales. Renewable Energy Credits or RECs, which are classified as Tier 1 or Tier 2 can be traded or purchased by suppliers to claim those credits. REC payments function as subsidies for renewable energy generation and relate to energy output. The bill removes energy derived from high carbon emitting sources, namely waste incineration, as eligible for such subsidies under Maryland's RSP. The goals in SB 10 align well with Baltimore City's 2019 Sustainability Plan strategies to reduce emissions, support renewable energy adoption and advance clean air, including the goals to:

Energy, Strategy 2: Speed the path to decarbonization through [the] increased deployment of renewable energy and electric vehicles.

Action 2: *Advocate for a higher State of Maryland renewable portfolio standard (RPS) as well as affordable pathways to electrification*

Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Strategy 3: Create new programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Action 2: *Commit to being a “Carbon Neutral City,” meaning we would have a net zero impact on greenhouse gas emissions.*

Action 3: *Reduce short-term pollutants, developing an action plan to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants (such as the harmful chemicals found in some refrigerators and air conditioning units), which cause significantly greater warming than carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases*

Clean Air, Strategy 1: Reduce emissions from industrial operations to reduce harm to people living nearby.

Action 1: *Encourage state-of-the-art pollution controls on all “point source pollution” emitters and improve review of the effect of new permit applications for air pollution sources, particularly those in and near zip codes with high asthma hospitalization rates.*

Action 2: *Work with federal, state, and regional agencies to reduce toxic air emissions from transportation, especially reducing pollution from freight vehicles.*

Including carbon-emitting energy sources as eligible for Tier 1 renewable energy in Maryland’s RPS is counterintuitive to Baltimore City’s 2019 Sustainability Plan strategies, the City’s and the State of Maryland’s carbon neutrality goals and efforts to decrease air pollution. Based on the city’s 2020 greenhouse gas inventory, waste incineration comprises roughly 9.5% of all point source emissions in Baltimore. This same industry perennially receives subsidies in state RECs while placing an unjust environmental burden on predominantly African American and low-income residents in South Baltimore. It is imperative state renewable energy subsidies support truly renewable energy, such as solar.

Additional Background:

The State’s RPS was first passed in 2004 and subsequently amended several times. SB10/HB220 directly addresses 2011 and 2012 amendments to the RPS that added “*waste-to-energy and refused-derived fuel facilities*” as a Tier 1 renewable energy source. Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) has increased in its overall share of RECs since the bill passed in 2011 from 4% to 14% in 2014 and has since declined to 10% in 2017. According to a 2019 Report from the Maryland Department of the Environment: “*More RECs from MSW have been retired since MSW was converted to Tier 1 status than when MSW was a Tier 2 resource.*”ⁱ Maryland’s current RPS standards provide significant subsidies for highly-carbon emitting activities, causing cleaning renewable energy sources to unnecessarily compete with industries that don’t align with climate change goals for Baltimore City and across the state.

SB 10 reflects a multi-year effort to clean up Maryland’s RPS, aligns renewable energy regulations with statewide climate and sustainability goals and opens the city up to waste management alternatives that promote environmental justice, zero waste planning and opportunities to capture the value of materials in the city’s current waste stream.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on SB 10.

ⁱ Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Power Plant Research Program (PPRP) (2019) Final Report Concerning the Renewable Portfolio Standards as Required by Chapter 303 of the Acts of Maryland General Assembly of 2017. DNR Publication No. 12-091619-167. Available at: chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://dnr.maryland.gov/pprp/Documents/FinalRPSReportDecember2019.pdf

SB10.Gallagher.testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Patrice Gallagher

Position: FAV

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.

Patrice Gallagher
115 E. 5th Street
Frederick, MD 21701

SB10_IndivisibleHoCo_FAV_Peter Alexander.pdf

Uploaded by: Peter Alexander

Position: FAV



SB10

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

Testimony before the Education, Energy, and the Environment

Hearing February 13, 2025

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Feldman and Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the committee, my name is Peter Alexander, and I represent the 900+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today **in support of SB10**. We appreciate the leadership of Senate President Ferugson, and Senators Lewis-Young, and Simonaire for sponsoring this important legislation.

This can keeps getting kicked down the road.

The RPS is an important tool to support clean, renewable energy development and decrease emissions from the electricity sector, but trash incineration should not be subsidized, especially with a fiscally tight State budget. Worse, \$11.7 million of the \$24.7 million subsidy paid in 2022 to burn trash went to the ReWorld trash incinerator in VIRGINIA that received 40% of the programs RPS credits.

This makes no sense when valuable programs are getting cut to tighten our state budget.

Subsidizing this seemingly renewable material takes money away from real renewable energy programs and drives waste markets toward the worst methods of waste management. Simply put, subsidizing trash incineration is counter-productive and hurts ratepayers here in Maryland. Subsidies exist to support the things we want, so why are we subsidizing things we don't want?

Passing the **Reclaim Renewable Energy Act** is a no-cost bill in the state budget, will better prioritize the money we already spend, and is a consumer protection measure that will not increase utilities costs to Maryland ratepayers.

It's time to stop kicking this can and enact this important alteration to the RPS. Let's put RPS subsidies toward wind and solar power, and let the waste sector work on managing waste.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

Peter Alexander, PhD
District 9A
Woodbine, MD 21797

SB 10

Uploaded by: Phil Webster

Position: FAV



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

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

TO: Chair Feldman and members of the Education, Energy and the Environment
Committee
FROM: Phil Webster, PhD, Lead Advocate, Climate Change
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland.
DATE: February 13, 2025

The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland strongly supports **SB 10 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)**.

The UULM-MD is a faith-based advocacy organization based on Unitarian Universalist (UU) Values, including *Justice* (where all feel welcome and can thrive) and *Interdependence* (honoring the interdependent web of all existence). Working to mitigate, adapt to, and build resilience for climate change is central to our beliefs. The **SB 10 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)** aligns with both of the values.

The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act advances *Justice* by reducing incentives to incinerate trash which has known negative health for the overburdened residents nearby. Trash incineration is among the dirtiest ways to produce electricity. Incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity produced than any other power source, even coal plants. Incinerators emit mercury and lead into the air nearby communities breathe, which are not safe for human exposure at any level.

The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act advances *Interdependence* by removing subsidies from trash incineration. Subsidizing trash incineration isn't getting Maryland electricity that delivers decreased greenhouse gas emissions or a healthier environment. But Maryland is wasting a lot of money profiting trash incinerators, because right now, trash incineration counts as "renewable" in the RPS. When Maryland passes the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act, those funds will be available to support real renewable energy.

We urge a FAVORABLE report on **The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act** in committee.

Phil Webster, PhD

Lead Advocate, Climate Change UULM-MD

UULM-MD c/o UU Church of Annapolis 333 Dubois Road Annapolis, MD 21401 410-266-8044,

www.uulmmd.org info@uulmmd.org www.facebook.com/uulmmd www.Twitter.com/uulmmd

Testimony in Support of SB0010.pdf

Uploaded by: Ray Earnest

Position: FAV

Testimony in Support of SB0010

Education, Energy and the Environment Committee, HEARING 2/13/25

Submitted on 2/11/25

To All Committee Members,

My name is Ray Earnest; I live on Maryland's Eastern Shore, and I urge a favorable report on SB0010.

This Bill will help Maryland meet its greenhouse gas reduction goals and cost the state nothing. In 2004 the Maryland legislature established the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to capture the environmental and economic benefits of renewable energy. The RPS requires electricity suppliers to subsidize renewable energy at increasing levels over time, and the suppliers prove their compliance through the purchase of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) from energy facilities that Maryland defines as "renewable." Unfortunately, the program allows some polluting industries like trash incineration to count as "renewable," diverting the subsidies represented by purchase of RECs away from the real renewable energy. This of course works to the advantage of polluting companies and to the disadvantage of the environment. The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act will eliminate trash incineration from the Renewable Portfolio Standard, ending a longtime environmental injustice and making more money available to support the real renewable energy we actually need to fight the climate crisis.

I support this bill because, if Maryland is to meet the goals set out in the EmPower program and do its part to stave off the worst effects of climate change, this bill is a "must do."

Thank you for your consideration, and I look to this committee to give SB0010 a favorable report.

Sincerely,
Ray Earnest
20375 Hog Island Rd
Preston, MD 21655
Rayearnest1@gmail.com

SB0010 - Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.pdf

Uploaded by: Rebecca Shillenn

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition. I am a resident of **District 45**. **I am testifying in support of SB0010.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard is intended to incentivize the conversion of more of our power grid to clean, renewable energy like wind and solar. Yet instead, a substantial amount of renewable energy credits come from burning trash: a method of energy generation that, far from being clean, fills the air with toxic pollutants, often in areas inhabited by the poor and marginalized who have limited ability to do anything about it. Instead of encouraging electricity providers to source more of their power from green sources and fostering the growth of renewable energy industries, Maryland is simply subsidizing a polluting industry at no benefit to the public.

I'm originally from Glen Burnie, and am pretty familiar with passing the Curtis Bay and Westport incinerators, sometimes by bike. I go that way because it's one of the least dangerous ways, on bike, to get south. But it is a noxious part of the ride, and that's only for 10-15 minutes! I can't imagine living with it daily.

Burning trash should never have been labeled a renewable energy source in the first place, and it is a shame and an embarrassment that year after year, we have continued this giveaway to trash incinerators in lieu of simply fixing this obvious and easily-resolvable flaw in the law. Now, when the budget crisis is forcing us to look closely at the value we are getting for every expenditure, is the perfect opportunity to make this change.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0010 - the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025** (Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations).

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Shillenn
5401 Elsrode Avenue Baltimore
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

SB10 RREA Written Testimony Richard Gray .pdf

Uploaded by: Richard Gray

Position: FAV



PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND

P.O. Box 7595, Largo MD 20792

ProgressiveMaryland.org

Info@progressivemaryland.org

Bill Title: SB10 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Position: Favorable

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

From: Richard Gray, Member of Progressive Maryland

Date: 2/11/25

Members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide personal testimony in support of SB10, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (RREA) of 2025. My name is Richard Gray, and I am a proud member of Progressive Maryland, which is a statewide advocacy group that builds power in working-class communities in Maryland.

For 40 years, the Wheelabrator (formerly Bresco) Baltimore Incinerator has been polluting our skies. The incinerator's theft of ratepayers' bills needs to end. In 2017, Dr. George D. Thurston ran a study to tally the financial impact of the negative health effects as a result of Wheelabrator's pollution. His study took into account respiratory and cardiovascular hospital admissions, acute bronchitis visits, ER visits, asthma visits, chronic bronchitis, and more. Dr. Thurston found the total sum of these health costs to be around \$55 million per year. That's \$55 million taken from the people of Baltimore for the brazen incineration of waste.¹ From 2012 to 2022, electricity bills paid by Maryland ratepayers contributed over \$100 million to incineration efforts.² These funds could better be used in good faith of Maryland's renewable portfolio standards by investing in solar, wind, or hydroelectric projects, domains typically understood as renewable energy. This incinerator's theft from ratepayers' bills has gone on long enough, and I am proud to lend my voice in solidarity with Baltimore's working-class to support the RREA.

I leave you all with this, just as a wise man plants trees, under whose shade he knows he will never sit, a wise senator supports removing incineration from their state's Renewable Portfolio Standards, the clean air from which they might be able to breathe.

Respectfully,
Richard Gray

¹ "Written report of George D. Thurston regarding the public health impacts of air emissions from the Wheelabrator facility." cbf.org. November 20, 2017. <https://www.cbf.org/document-library/cbf-reports/thurston-wheelabrator-health-impacts-2017.pdf>.

² "Report: Maryland's energy subsidies are going up in flames." peer.org. Last modified March 5, 2024. <https://peer.org/report-maryland-energy-subsidies-in-flames/>.

Testimony in support of SB0010 Renewable Energy Po

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

02/13/2025

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON SB#0010 - FAVORABLE

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

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0010, Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)

My Jewish faith teaches me a "...halakhah (Jewish law) prohibits wasteful consumption. When we waste resources we are violating the mitzvah (commandment) of *Bal Tashhit* ("Do not destroy"). It is based on Deuteronomy 20:19-20:

"When in your war against a city you have to besiege it a long time in order to capture it, you must not destroy its trees, wielding the ax against them. You may eat of them, but you must not cut them down. Are trees of the field human to withdraw before you into the besieged city? Only trees that you know do not yield food may be destroyed; you may cut them down for constructing siege works against the city that is waging war on you, until it has been reduced."

This law was expanded in later Jewish legal sources to include the prohibition of the wanton destruction of household goods, clothes, buildings, springs, food or the wasteful consumption of anything ... The underlying idea of this law is the recognition that everything we own belongs to God. When we consume in a wasteful manner, we damage Creation and violate our mandate to use Creation only for our legitimate benefit."

We need to look at excluding energy derived from waste and refuse from being eligible for inclusion in the renewable energy portfolio standard. The use of these resources damages our environment and poses significant health risks to populations adjacent to facilities processing this waste into energy. This dirty energy should not be part of the portfolio of energy sources in a clean and healthy Maryland power generating environment. It is wasteful consumption damaging our health, our environment, and our need to create environmental justice in affected communities.

Energy produced from waste is NOT clean or renewable. The CO₂ emissions of a waste incineration facility are roughly equivalent to a natural-gas-fired power plant, with some estimates pointing to emissions like those of coal-fired energy generation. It is not clean energy. Waste contains materials that are derived from fossil fuels, like plastics. Energy produced from waste incinerators is therefore not clean or renewable.¹

¹ <https://www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/article/Why-solid-waste-incineration-is-not-the-answer-to-your-city-s-waste->

SB0010 makes a moral statement that Maryland stands for climate justice and environmental justice and is forward looking in its approach to energy generation.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0010.

SB10-2025-Reis.pdf

Uploaded by: Richard Reis

Position: FAV

Richard Reis
Maryland Professional Engineer, Retired
103 W 39th St Apt A2
Baltimore MD 21210
301-325-8001

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Testimony on: Bill Number SB0010, "Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)"

Position: Support

Hearing Date: February 13, 1 PM

Dear Chair Feldman and Other Members of the Committee,

The proposed legislation will rightly remove energy derived from burning trash from the Maryland Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard.

As resident of District 43A and a Maryland ratepayer and resident I am writing to express my strong support for the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

Maryland is particularly vulnerable to sea level rise and other adverse effects of rampant climate change. Currently companies and government get Renewable Portfolio Credits in Maryland for burning trash, although this activity emits both climate and health-harming pollution.

Our state can't have a Clean Energy Standard while encouraging trash burning.

Maryland needs to conserve its funds for worthwhile projects that include wind, solar, and energy storage. Removing trash-burning will allow the state to redirect funds for worthwhile projects.

This bill will not increase electric utility bills because truly clean renewable energy is now less expensive than alternatives such as trash burning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Reis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard (Rich) Reis, Licensed Professional Engineer, Retired
rich.reis1@gmail.com

SB 010_Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home_FAV.

Uploaded by: Robert Simon

Position: FAV



Hearing before the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Maryland General Assembly
February 13, 2025

**Statement of Support (FAVORABLE)
of Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home on
SB 10, Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025**

Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home (MCCH) is a lay-led organization of Catholics from parishes in the three Catholic dioceses in Maryland: the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington. It engages in education about, and advocacy based upon, the teachings of the Catholic Church relating to care for creation and respect for all life. MCCH is a grassroots voice for the understanding of Catholic social teaching held by a wide array of Maryland Catholics. In the 2024 Legislative Session, 570 Maryland Catholics from 22 different Catholic parishes and religious communities across the State joined together through MCCH to support several key environmental bills under consideration by the General Assembly. MCCH is independent, though, and should be distinguished as an organization from the Maryland Catholic Conference, which represents the public policy positions of the bishops who lead these three dioceses.

Because we are attuned both to the cry of a distressed Earth and the cry of the poor who suffer first and most from a warming planet, **MCCH would like to express our strong support for the passage of Senate Bill 10: the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025.** In his 2015 encyclical, entitled *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*,¹ Pope Francis called for a comprehensive response to the threats from climate change, including especially “an urgent need to develop policies so that, in the next few years, the emission of carbon dioxide and other highly polluting gases can be drastically reduced (by) substituting for fossil fuels and developing sources of renewable energy.” (*Laudato Si'*, no. 26)

In his 2023 apostolic exhortation on the climate crisis, *Laudate Deum*²—a follow-up to *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis sounds an even more urgent cry to do much more about reducing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions. “I have realized that our responses have not been adequate, while the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point. In addition to this possibility, it is indubitable that the impact of climate change will increasingly prejudice the lives and families of many persons. We will feel its effects in the areas of healthcare, sources of employment, access to resources, housing, and forced migrations.” (*Laudate Deum*, no. 2)

¹ The English text of the encyclical, to which the paragraph numbers in the parentheses refer, can be found at: https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html.

² The English text of this apostolic exhortation, to which the paragraph numbers in the parentheses refer, can be found at: https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html.

As Catholics we are concerned with Pope Francis that “the effects of climate change are borne by the most vulnerable people, whether at home or around the world.” (*Laudate Deum*, no. 3) What we do in Maryland matters well beyond our state. As Pope Francis so movingly puts it: “The world sings of an infinite Love: how can we fail to care for it? ... God has joined us so closely to the world around us that we can feel the desertification of the soil almost as a physical ailment, and the extinction of a species as a painful disfigurement.”³

We are moving too slowly in Maryland, where we have the power to make our climate choices on supporting truly clean and renewable energy. That is irresponsible at this point in time. We have limited resources and do not need to subsidize the profits of companies that only have dirty energy to offer. Our focus must be on clean, renewable energy.

Senate Bill 10 responds to both the cry of the poor and the cry of the Earth by eliminating public subsidies for trash incineration under Maryland’s Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). This energy source not only pollutes the environment and harms the health of people living in nearby communities, but even more importantly, unlike clean energy sources such as wind, solar and geothermal that Maryland should be supporting, trash incineration contributes to climate change. A 2023 study in *PLOS Climate* found that “incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity produced than *any* other power source”⁴—including coal plants. Subsidizing them takes money away from investments in the clean, renewable energy technologies we need, and that are increasingly available, to be quickly scaled up.

The purpose of the RPS is to support clean, renewable energy, which Maryland and the planet needs now more than ever. Trash incineration is not clean, renewable energy. Eliminating trash incineration from the RPS is a budget-neutral means of making more money available for renewable energy. Eliminating trash incineration from the RPS was recommended in Maryland’s *Climate Pollution Reduction Plan* and the Maryland Commission on Climate Change’s *2023 Annual Report*.

All God’s creatures will suffer the ravages of an overheated planet, including species extinction and rising sea levels that threaten Maryland shorelines; and if we continue to support trash incineration, then the poorest among us will be condemned to live beneath or downwind of plumes of toxic emissions, suffering higher rates of asthma or being exposed to cancer-causing emissions.

This bill will ensure that public subsidies for renewable energy through the Renewable Portfolio Standard go toward actual *clean* renewable energy and are not wasted on energy sources that emit greenhouse gases and result in harmful pollution.

For these reasons we strongly urge your support for this bill. Thank you for your consideration of our views and our respectful request for a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 10.

³ Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (24 November 2013), no. 215, English text available at https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium.html.

⁴ Neil Tangri, “Waste incinerators undermine clean energy goals,” *PLOS Climate* 2(6): e0000100, 1 June 2023, <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pclm.0000100>.

Favorable Report SB10 Reclaim Renewable.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Sarah Bur

Position: FAV

SUPPORT SB10/HB220—Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

February 11, 2025

Dear Senators Feldman and Kagan,

Quaker Voice of Maryland is submitting this testimony for the 2/13 Education, Energy and Environment Hearing in FAVOR of SB10—Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025

We have identified this bill as one of our priorities for the 2025 General Assembly because Quakers across Maryland have shared their concern about climate change and the impact of incinerators on the health of Maryland communities and the environment. One of the testimonies of Quakerism is stewardship of the natural environment and equity for all who rely on and enjoy natural resources.

This bill will delete trash incineration from the list of “renewable energy” sources that qualify for Maryland’s Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and open up more space in Maryland’s RPS for supporting the emissions-free electricity Maryland actually needs to fight climate change.

Maryland needs to invest in climate solutions. Finding funding for the \$1 billion per year that MDE’s Climate Pollution Reduction Plan requires will be a significant challenge. The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act redistributes the subsidy that Maryland utilities, and by extension Maryland rate payers, are already paying.

We thank Senators Ferguson, Young, and Simonaire for sponsoring this bill and encourage a FAVORABLE report for this essential legislation.

Sincerely,

Barbara Thomas

Barbara Thomas,
Working Group Member
Quaker Voice of Maryland
bthomas60@gmail.com
quakervoice.md@gmail.com

SB 10 - Reclaim Renewable Energy Act EEE Testimony

Uploaded by: Senate President Bill Ferguson

Position: FAV



The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

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

Testimony of Senate President Bill Ferguson

On February 13, 2024

Before the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment

Why This Bill Matters:

As we address the exigent crisis of climate change, it's imperative that we transition our energy economy to reliable renewable sources as quickly as possible. Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards (RPS) was created to provide State-level subsidies to true zero-emission technologies of the future, allowing them to increase the scale of the green energy generated as quickly as possible.

Maryland's RPS is in need of reform to ensure it adequately serves Marylanders' interests, especially as utility bills are rising to crisis levels. At the same time, we must make tangible, incremental steps so the RPS actually accomplishes what it was created for.

We know that waste and refuse incineration are not zero-emission energy fuel sources, yet those generation facilities receive tens of millions of dollars each year to subsidize pollution emitting power plants. As Maryland ratepayers are paying a premium for their energy due to the 800% increase in PJM Interconnection capacity auction prices, providing an additional State-level financial incentive is unnecessary and counterproductive.

What This Bill Does:

Senate Bill 10 simply removes waste-to-energy and refuse-derived fuels from inclusion in the State's RPS program. As a result, the tens of millions of dollars currently subsidizing three power plants which burn trash to generate electricity can be reallocated to spur the development of true clean energy projects, like geothermal, wind, solar, and hydroelectric plants.

Two of the three plants currently receiving these incentives are in Maryland while the other is located in Virginia. Of the two facilities located in Maryland, the one located in Montgomery County is municipally owned.

The Montgomery County government is currently using proceeds from the power plant to help pay for their Aiming for Zero Waste program. I am coordinating with Montgomery County on a sponsor amendment which will delay the bill's impact specifically for municipally owned waste incineration

facilities by one year to provide time for the County to adjust its financing so as to not inhibit their broader zero waste efforts.

Why You Should Vote For This Bill:

The incineration of waste is an important tool for generating electricity and keeping trash out of our landfills, but it is not clean energy. As the PJM Interconnection capacity auction prices skyrocket and are projected to remain at historically high levels for the foreseeable future, these waste incineration plants have sufficient incentive to continue operating without participating in Maryland's RPS program.

Nothing in this legislation should impact these plants overall operations and the impact to Maryland ratepayers is de minimis, with one estimate confirmed by the PSC to be as low as an \$0.0004/kWh increase.

Instead, Maryland will continue modernizing our RPS program to ensure it is incentivizing the new generation of true zero emission power plants at a time when we need to get more Maryland-made power built and on the grid as quickly as possible. Senate Bill 10 is an important step towards that overarching goal.

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 10 and I urge the committee to move this bill with a favorable report with the amendment referenced above.

Testimony in Support of SB 10_ Reclaim Renewable E

Uploaded by: Senator Karen Lewis Young

Position: FAV



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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253 East Church Street
Frederick, MD 21701
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**Testimony in Support of SB 10: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources –
Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)
Date Here**

Chairman Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and distinguished members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee:

It is my pleasure to offer testimony in support of **Senate Bill 10 - Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025**. If enacted, this bill will **remove the dirty energy sources of trash incineration and refuse-derived fuel from eligibility for the state’s renewable portfolio standard**.

Maryland’s Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) was created with the goals of decreasing long-term emissions and working toward a healthier environment. But due to the present inclusion of trash incineration and refuse-derived fuel in our definition of “renewable energy sources”, the RPS is subsidizing energy sources that actually *increase* emissions and *harm* environmental health. **These dirty energy sources 1) pollute Maryland, 2) cause sickness, 3) harm ratepayers, and 4) impede job growth.**

First, dirty energy sources are polluting our state and preventing our progress toward our clean energy goals. In 2020, approximately 25 percent of Maryland’s “renewable” energy came from dirty sources. Indeed, many of the substances emitted by dirty energy are considered the “worst of the worst.” These persistent pollutants do not break down, allowing them to move without confinement and build up in people and wildlife. For example, some of these toxins, such as PFAS, dioxins, and mercury compounds are found even in arctic marine mammals, as far from industrial sources as possible. One study found that past municipal waste incineration in the U.S. has been responsible for 70-80% of dioxins found in the far North.

Given that range, imagine the damage caused by these dirty sources to the *local* environment. The impact of dirty energy is caustic, but right now these sources make up 10 percent of renewable energy credits. Rather than fulfilling its mission to transition the state to genuinely renewable energy, the RPS is bogged down by polluting fuel sources. To protect our

state and have a hope of meeting the Governor's goal of 100 percent clean energy by 2035, we must remove these detrimental fuels from the RPS.

Second, dirty energy sources are dangerous to Maryland citizens. Dioxins, one of the toxins generated by dirty energy, has been identified by the World Health Organization as a human carcinogen. Dioxins have also been found to cause "a range of adverse health effects were identified, including significant associations with some neoplasia, congenital anomalies, infant deaths and miscarriage," according to a 2020 study in the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*. Often, low-income and communities of color bear the brunt of this toxic burden. Over 80 percent of U.S. dirty energy sources are located in communities where more than 25 percent of people identify as "minority," live below the federal poverty rate, or both.

Third, dirty energy sources harm ratepayers. Maryland's ratepayers spend about \$17 million annually to buy renewable energy credits from dirty energy sources. By 2030, that amount will have reached half of a billion dollars - all towards energy sources that could ravage their health and land. In fact, over \$100 million has been spent in the last decade on subsidizing waste incineration falsely labeled as 'renewable energy' even though incinerators produce more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of energy produced than any other power source. The Maryland RPS program currently supports a trash incinerator which is single-handedly one of the top sources of pollution in the D.C. metro area. Local leaders continue to attempt to close trash incinerators in Montgomery County and Baltimore due to the damage they cause.

Finally, dirty energy sources are preventing Maryland's job growth. An overwhelming amount of renewable energy credits paid for by Maryland ratepayers go to dirty energy sources outside of the state. For example, one Virginia facility has received millions through Maryland's renewable energy credits, but is too dirty to qualify for Virginia's own RPS. Those subsidies would remain in Maryland if they were instead granted toward funding new, in-state clean energy projects. We are funding trash incinerators in Virginia and anaerobic digesters in Delaware at the expense of wind and solar jobs in Maryland.

In conclusion, we must remove the dirty energy sources of trash incineration and refuse-derived fuel from qualification in the state's renewable portfolio standard. Dirty energy sources **pollute our state and prevent us from reaching our clean energy goals**. Their emissions do not break down, cannot be contained, and cause widespread **damage to the health of our constituents and our state's beautiful wildlife**. Granting Tier 1 subsidies like renewable energy credits to dirty energy sources **costs Maryland ratepayers** - costs that currently leave the state, when they could be going toward **creating jobs and lead to new sources of actually clean energy**. It is time to take action and reclaim our renewable energy portfolio standard program.

I urge a favorable report of **Senate Bill 10**. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Karen Lewis Young". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and "Y".

Senator Karen Lewis Young

Bill Title_ SB10 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.pdf

Uploaded by: Serenity Blyther

Position: FAV

MARYPIRG

Students

Bill Title: SB10 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Position: Favorable

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

From: Serenity Blyther, MaryPIRG Students

Date: 2/11/25

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the *Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025*. My name is Serenity Blyther, and I am a public policy student at the University of Maryland.

This bill is a necessary step toward ensuring Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) truly reflects a commitment to sustainability and equity. By redefining eligible sources of renewable energy, the Act prioritizes investments in clean, low-impact sources like wind and solar while phasing out subsidies for energy sources that do not align with our climate and public health goals.

Maryland has made progress in expanding renewable energy, but our current RPS framework still allows credits for sources that contribute to environmental harm, particularly in communities already facing disproportionate pollution burdens. Updating these standards will promote cleaner air, reduce long-term costs for consumers, and encourage innovation in Maryland's green economy.

SB10_Progressive Maryand_Shenae_Favorable .pdf

Uploaded by: Shenae Thomas

Position: FAV



Bill Title: SB10 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Position: Favorable

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

From: Shenae Thomas, Member of Progressive Maryland

Date: 2/11/25

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB10, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (RREA) of 2025. My name is Shenae Thomas, a proud member of Progressive Maryland, which is a statewide advocacy group that builds power in working-class communities in Maryland.

As a Baltimore native and cherry hill resident, I was previously unaware of how my electricity bill supported the financial gain of toxic incineration facilities across the state, particularly the Bresco incinerator. For four decades, this facility has emitted harmful chemicals that have disproportionately affected predominantly Black neighborhoods in South Baltimore, including Cherry Hill, Brooklyn, Westport, and Mount Winans, resulting in elevated rates of asthma and cancer.

From 2012 to 2022, electricity bills paid by Maryland ratepayers contributed over \$100 million to incineration efforts.¹ These funds ought to be directed towards genuine renewable energy sources like solar, geothermal, and hydro power. This aligns with the original intent of Maryland's renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

According to the Public Service Commission's 2022 report on Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS), energy companies allocated significant funds to acquire Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) from three incinerators. Specifically, they invested \$8,776,070 for 382,233 RECs from the Montgomery County incinerator, \$4,203,999 for 183,101 RECs from Wheelabrator in Baltimore, and \$11,733,532 for 511,045 RECs from Covanta Fairfax.²

As a ratepayer, I am disenchanted by this high level of financial exploitation, and it is clear that incineration has clearly become a financial liability to our state's RPS. Once incineration is removed from RPS more REC's would go to support clean energy projects. The writing is clearly on the wall, it's time to pass the RREA and remove incineration from RPS.

¹ "Report: Maryland's energy subsidies are going up in flames." peer.org. Last modified March 5, 2024. <https://peer.org/report-maryland-energy-subsidies-in-flames/>.

² "Report: Maryland's energy subsidies are going up in flames." peer.org. Last modified March 5, 2024. <https://peer.org/report-maryland-energy-subsidies-in-flames/>.

SB10 Reclaim Renewable Energy.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Shore Progress

Position: FAV



SB 10: Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Position: Support

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

Shore Progress supports SB 10 - Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025. This legislation is critical for Eastern Shore and rural Maryland communities, who deserve policies that prioritize clean air, sustainable energy, and economic fairness.

The Eastern Shore contains some of Maryland's most environmentally at-risk communities, some of which are already beginning to experience the devastating effects of climate change. Our rural communities often bear the brunt of environmental inequities, and incinerators release harmful pollutants such as particulate matter and heavy metals, disproportionately impacting public health.

The Climate Pollution Reduction Plan and the Maryland Commission on Climate Change's recommendations both call for removing waste incineration from the RPS. It's time to align our state's policies with this vision and prioritize genuinely renewable energy sources that benefit working-class and rural communities alike.

By passing SB 10, Maryland can redirect resources to clean, local energy projects that create jobs, improve public health, and help Maryland meet its climate goals.

As an organization committed to building sustainable and clean communities, Shore Progress views this bill as a critical step toward for Maryland. We support this bill and recommend a FAVORABLE report in committee.

Thank you for your consideration,

Shore Progress

SB10_ProgressiveMaryland_SirJames _Favorable (1).p

Uploaded by: SirJames Weaver

Position: FAV



- Bill number_Organization_YourName_Position

Bill Title: SB10 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Position: Favorable

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

From: SirJames Weaver, Progressive Maryland Community Organizer

Date: 2/11/25

Thank you for allowing me to present my testimony in favor of SB10, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (RREA) of 2025. I am SirJames, a resident of Baltimore city and the Environmental Justice Organizer for Progressive Maryland. Our organization is a statewide advocacy group dedicated to empowering working-class communities throughout Maryland.

In my role, I have had the privilege of engaging with hundreds of frontline community members in South Baltimore. A significant number were unaware that their electricity bills were contributing to the funding of an incinerator that has negatively impacted their community.

From 2012 to 2022, electricity bills paid by Maryland ratepayers contributed over \$100 million to incineration efforts.¹ These funds ought to be directed towards genuine renewable energy sources like solar, geothermal, and hydro power. This aligns with the original intent of Maryland's renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

According to the Public Service Commission's 2022 report on Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS), energy companies allocated significant funds to acquire Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) from three incinerators. Specifically, they invested \$8,776,070 for 382,233 RECs from the Montgomery County incinerator, \$4,203,999 for 183,101 RECs from Wheelabrator in Baltimore, and \$11,733,532 for 511,045 RECs from Covanta Fairfax.²

As a ratepayer, I am disenchanted by this high level of financial exploitation, and it is clear that incineration has clearly become a financial liability to our state's RPS. Once incineration is removed from RPS more REC's would go to support clean energy projects. The writing is clearly on the wall, it's time to pass the RREA and remove incineration from RPS.

¹ "Report: Maryland's energy subsidies are going up in flames." peer.org. Last modified March 5, 2024. <https://peer.org/report-maryland-energy-subsidies-in-flames/>.

² "Report: Maryland's energy subsidies are going up in flames." peer.org. Last modified March 5, 2024. <https://peer.org/report-maryland-energy-subsidies-in-flames/>.

SB0010_ProgressiveMaryland_SomyaSharma-Holt_Favora

Uploaded by: Somya Sharma-Holt

Position: FAV



Bill Title: SB0010 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025

Position: Favorable

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

From: Somya Sharma-Holt, constituent of the 8th district of Maryland

Date: February 11, 2025

My name is Somya Sharma-Holt and I am writing to express my **strong support for SB0010 the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025**. SB0010 will redefine “Tier 1 renewable source” to exclude energy derived from waste. I am strongly in favor of this bill because of the positive health and economic effects it will have on the residents of Baltimore specifically.

There have been organizing efforts to stop the incineration of waste in South Baltimore due to the direct impact on air quality and health issues in the surrounding communities. There are higher rates of respiratory issues, immune issues, and asthma in residents caused by air pollution from incineration BRESCO Waste Incinerator. The majority racial demographic in the south and inner harbor Baltimore area are black and brown people. The health impact of polluted air from greenhouse gases disproportionately impacts working communities of color, which perpetuates systematic racial inequalities. This bill is an important first step in Maryland taking greater climate action in phasing out burning trash for energy and will reduce pollution from the incinerator which will promote cleaner air.

It's up to us to work together to take this step to make Maryland closer to a climate-conscious state that relies on clean, renewable energy. This bill will create an opportunity for a positive domino effect on the state. Once there are barriers to waste incineration, local governments will need to put energy towards more environmentally conscious waste management systems.

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and esteemed members of the Committee if you want a progressive culture that looks out for impacted communities and the environment, **I urge a favorable report on SB0010**. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Somya Sharma-Holt

Resident of Maryland

SB0010_ReclaimRenewablesAct_FAV_ClimateCC.pdf

Uploaded by: Sonia Demiray

Position: FAV



SB0010 - SUPPORT

Sonia Demiray
Climate Communications Coalition
sonia@demirayink.com
202-744-2948

SB0010 –Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards – Eligible Sources
Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025
Education, Energy, and the Environment
February 13, 2025

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee:

My name is Sonia Demiray, I am the Executive Director of the Climate Communications Coalition, a member of the Mid-Atlantic Justice Coalition, and of the MLC Climate Justice Wing. The Climate Communications Coalition strongly supports SB0010.

Declaring trash incineration “renewable energy” and dedicating subsidies to incinerators that should have gone toward solar, wind, or geothermal was and continues to be a grave mistake. The RPS is supposed to reduce our emissions, and eventually eliminate them. However, toxic trash incineration only adds to the greenhouse gases and spews toxic carcinogens into overburdened communities. Now, after years of organizing and advocacy from communities fighting incinerators, Maryland is poised to fix this costly mistake by passing the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (SB0010). Please remove trash incineration from the Tier 1 Renewables once and for all.

Removing trash is a necessary first step but we must also prepare to remove woody biomass and biogas from the RPS. Biomass burning power plants emit 150% the CO₂ of coal plants, and 300 – 400% the carbon dioxide (CO₂) of gas plants per unit of energy produced ([Partnership for Policy Integrity](#)). Meanwhile, biogas is methane - same as regular gas- and 80 times more potent at trapping heat than CO₂ in the first 20 years after its release. Once burned, it also releases CO₂ which continues to accumulate in our atmosphere for thousands of years, dangerously altering our climate.

We need to clean up the RPS in its entirety and focus on truly clean energy: wind, solar, and geothermal. Let’s start with removing waste. We urge a favorable report for SB0010.

###

SB10_FAV_DALONZO_MARYPIRG.pdf

Uploaded by: Sophia D'Alonzo

Position: FAV

MARYPIRG

Students

Bill Title: SB10 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Position: Favorable

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

From: First & last name, Member of MaryPIRG Students

Date: 2/11/25

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB10, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (RREA) of 2025. My name is Sophia D'Alonzo and I am a proud member of MaryPIRG Students, a grassroots advocacy organization at the University of Maryland- College Park.

As a Maryland resident and renter, I was previously unaware of how my electricity bill supported the financial gain of toxic incineration facilities across the state, particularly the Bresco incinerator. For four decades, this facility has emitted harmful chemicals that have disproportionately affected predominantly Black neighborhoods in South Baltimore, including Cherry Hill, Brooklyn, Westport, and Mount Winans, resulting in elevated rates of asthma and cancer.

From 2012 to 2022, electricity bills paid by Maryland ratepayers contributed over \$100 million to incineration efforts.¹ These funds ought to be directed towards genuine renewable energy sources like solar, geothermal, and hydro power. This aligns with the original intent of Maryland's renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

According to the Public Service Commission's 2022 report on Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS), energy companies allocated significant funds to acquire Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) from three incinerators. Specifically, they invested \$8,776,070 for 382,233 RECs from the Montgomery County incinerator, \$4,203,999 for 183,101 RECs from Wheelabrator in Baltimore, and \$11,733,532 for 511,045 RECs from Covanta Fairfax.²

As a ratepayer, I am disenchanted by this high level of financial exploitation, and it is clear that incineration has clearly become a financial liability to our state's RPS. Once incineration is removed from RPS more REC's would go to support clean energy projects. The writing is clearly on the wall, it's time to pass the RREA and remove incineration from RPS.

¹ "Report: Maryland's energy subsidies are going up in flames." peer.org. Last modified March 5, 2024. <https://peer.org/report-maryland-energy-subsidies-in-flames/>.

² "Report: Maryland's energy subsidies are going up in flames." peer.org. Last modified March 5, 2024. <https://peer.org/report-maryland-energy-subsidies-in-flames/>.

SB0010.Dolamores.Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Stephanie Dolamore

Position: FAV

Dear **Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,**

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition. We are a resident of District 43a. **We are testifying in support of SB0010.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard is intended to incentivize the conversion of more of our power grid to clean, renewable energy like wind and solar. Yet instead, a substantial amount of renewable energy credits come from burning trash: a method of energy generation that, far from being clean, fills the air with toxic pollutants, often in areas inhabited by the poor and marginalized who have limited ability to do anything about it. Instead of encouraging electricity providers to source more of their power from green sources and fostering the growth of renewable energy industries, Maryland is simply subsidizing a polluting industry at no benefit to the public.

Burning trash should never have been labeled a renewable energy source in the first place, and it is a shame and an embarrassment that year after year, we have continued this giveaway to trash incinerators in lieu of simply fixing this obvious and easily-resolvable flaw in the law. Now, when the budget crisis is forcing us to look closely at the value we are getting for every expenditure, is the perfect opportunity to make this change.

It is for these reasons that we are encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0010 - the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025** (Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations).

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Matthew & Stephanie Dolamore
3718 Yolando Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21218
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Tewodros Assefa

Position: FAV

MARYPIRG

Students

Bill Title: SB10 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Position: Favorable

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

From: First & last name, Member of MaryPIRG Students

Date: 2/11/25

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB10, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (RREA) of 2025. My name is Tewodros Assefa, a proud member of MaryPIRG Students, a grassroots advocacy organization at the University of Maryland- College Park.

As a Baltimore red 'n low S S C N resident, I was previously unaware of how my electricity bill supported the financial gain of toxic incineration facilities across the state, particularly the Bresco incinerator. For four decades, this facility has emitted harmful chemicals that have disproportionately affected predominantly Black neighborhoods in South Baltimore, including Cherry Hill, Brooklyn, Westport, and Mount Winans, resulting in elevated rates of asthma and cancer.

From 2012 to 2022, electricity bills paid by Maryland ratepayers contributed over \$100 million to incineration efforts.¹ These funds ought to be directed towards genuine renewable energy sources like solar, geothermal, and hydro power. This aligns with the original intent of Maryland's renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

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As a ratepayer, I am disenchanted by this high level of financial exploitation, and it is clear that incineration has clearly become a financial liability to our state's RPS. Once incineration is removed from RPS more REC's would go to support clean energy projects. The writing is clearly on the wall, it's time to pass the RREA and remove incineration from RPS.

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² "Report: Maryland's energy subsidies are going up in flames." peer.org. Last modified March 5, 2024. <https://peer.org/report-maryland-energy-subsidies-in-flames/>.

SB0010 - Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.pdf

Uploaded by: Theresa M. Hoffman

Position: FAV

Dear Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition. I am a resident of District 43b. **I am testifying in support of SB0010.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard is intended to incentivize the conversion of more of our power grid to clean, renewable energy like wind and solar. Yet instead, a substantial amount of renewable energy credits come from burning trash: a method of energy generation that, far from being clean, fills the air with toxic pollutants, often in areas inhabited by poor and marginalized people who have limited ability to do anything about it. Instead of encouraging electricity providers to source more of their power from green sources and fostering the growth of renewable energy industries, Maryland is simply subsidizing a polluting industry at no benefit to the public.

Burning trash should never have been labeled a renewable energy source in the first place, and it is a shame and an embarrassment that year after year, we have continued this giveaway to trash incinerators in lieu of simply fixing this obvious and easily resolvable flaw in the law. Now, when the budget crisis is forcing us to look closely at the value we are getting for every expenditure, is the perfect opportunity to make this change.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of SB0010 - the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025** (Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations).

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,
Theresa M. Hoffman
803 Seaward Rd., Towson, MD 21286
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore

RREATestimony_TiaJackson.pdf.pdf

Uploaded by: Tia Jackson

Position: FAV

MARYPIRG

Students

Bill Title: SB10 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Position: Favorable

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

From: First & last na, Member of MaryPIRG Students

Date: 2/11/25

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB10, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (RREA) of 2025. My name is [name], a proud member of MaryPIRG Students, a grassroots advocacy organization at the University of Maryland- College Park.

As a Maryland resident, I was previously unaware of how my electricity bill supported the financial gain of toxic incineration facilities across the state, particularly the Bresco incinerator. For four decades, this facility has emitted harmful chemicals that have disproportionately affected predominantly Black neighborhoods in South Baltimore, including Cherry Hill, Brooklyn, Westport, and Mount Winans, resulting in elevated rates of asthma and cancer.

From 2012 to 2022, electricity bills paid by Maryland ratepayers contributed over \$100 million to incineration efforts. These funds ought to be directed towards genuine renewable energy sources like solar, geothermal, and hydro power. This aligns with the original intent of Maryland's renewable portfolio standard (RPS).

According to the Public Service Commission's 2022 report on Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS), energy companies allocated significant funds to acquire Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) from three incinerators. Specifically, they invested \$8,776,070 for 382,233 RECs from the Montgomery County incinerator, \$4,203,999 for 183,101 RECs from Wheelabrator in Baltimore, and \$11,733,532 for 511,045 RECs from Covanta Fairfax.²

As a ratepayer, I am disenchanted by this high level of financial exploitation, and it is clear that incineration has clearly become a financial liability to our state's RPS. Once incineration is removed from RPS more REC's would go to support clean energy projects. The writing is clearly on the wall, it's time to pass the RREA and remove incineration from RPS.

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² "Report: Maryland's energy subsidies are going up in flames." peer.org. Last modified March 5, 2024. <https://peer.org/report-maryland-energy-subsidies-in-flames/>.

Testimony in Support of SB10, Reclaim Renewable En

Uploaded by: Tom Taylor

Position: FAV

February 11, 2025

Testimony in Support of SB10, Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

As a resident concerned about climate change and an active volunteer in environmental protection efforts, I am submitting this testimony to express my strong support of SB10, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

Passing the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act will eliminate trash incineration from Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and make tens of millions of additional dollars per year available to support renewable energy at no cost to the state budget.

Maryland needs to stop wasting our renewable energy subsidies on trash incineration. Burning trash for energy pollutes more than burning coal. The state has wasted \$100 million subsidizing trash incinerators as "renewable" since 2012, and we could waste another \$200 million by 2030 if trash incineration remains in the (RPS). With the state's current fiscal constraints and facing a climate crisis, that is a huge waste of Maryland's limited financial resources.

We should spend that money on the real renewable energy to fight climate change and make our air cleaner.

The RPS is an important tool to support clean, renewable energy development and decrease emissions from the electricity sector. Passing the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act will result in more money for renewable energy at no cost to the state budget. This legislation simply reallocates money we are already spending to increase funding for renewable energy.

I strongly urge a favorable vote on SB10.

Sincerely,

Tom Taylor
11-G Laurel Hill Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-513-9524

CAF-Specific RREA Testimony .pdf

Uploaded by: walkiria pool

Position: FAV

Bill Title: SB0010 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025

Position: SUPPORT (FAV)

To: Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

From: Walkiria Pool, CEO on behalf of Centro de Apoyo Familiar

Dear Honorable Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and the members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee,

Centro de Apoyo Familiar is submitting this **testimony in support of [SB0010](#) The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (RREA) of 2025**. We are a non-profit organization that transforms communities through economic, social and educational empowerment in collaboration with community and faith-based organizations. Our membership consists of CAF's Connectors Network, which includes over 500 faith-based organizations engaged through the CCN Connectors training program. This program provides faith leaders with clear direction on developing successful community initiatives, raising awareness, and empowering families by connecting them to diverse resources for the development of functional families and sustainable communities. We are mainly located in Maryland, Washington D.C, Virginia, Massachusetts, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic. Additionally, CAF is affiliated with many organizations across the U.S, along with nearby countries such as Guatemala, Venezuela, Mexico, and El Salvador. We seek to uplift and advocate for working class communities of color who are adversely impacted by environmental justice issues all across Maryland.

In Baltimore, communities living in proximity to the Wheelabrator Baltimore Refuse Energy Systems Company ("BRESKO") Incinerator continue to disproportionately suffer from adverse health outcomes. Under Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), "waste-to-energy," (i.e. trash incineration) is listed as a renewable resource eligible for Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) which are tax subsidized. This means that Marylanders, specifically impacted Baltimorean communities, are actively financing BRESKO which is contributing to their own deterioration. Trash incineration releases thousands of tons of greenhouse gases, toxic elements such as lead and mercury, and toxic ash into the atmosphere. The 2024 PEER Report on the RPS concluded that if "waste-to-energy" remains in the list of renewable energy sources, it will cost Maryland taxpayers an additional \$200,000,000 of RECs between 2023 and 2030. Maryland constituents, especially those that are underserved and overburdened, should not be financially contributing to their own demise.

Passage of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act will:

1. Remove trash incineration from the list of renewable energy sources eligible for RECs without shutting down incinerators in Maryland and with no additional cost to the state budget;
2. Redistribute the subsidy that would have otherwise been used to fund waste incineration to cleaner sources of energy such as solar, wind, and hydro; and
3. Advance the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)'s Climate Pollution Reduction Plan which aims to modify definitions of qualifying resources that are eligible for tax subsidies under the RPS in order to achieve the 2031 greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal.

This will ensure that Marylanders, specifically those that are low-income and minorities, are no longer financing investment into dirty energy sources that are not clean in nature and negatively impact public

health. As an organization that transforms communities through economic, social and educational empowerment in collaboration with community and faith-based organizations, and serves as a voice for working class communities of color, Centro de Apoyo Familiar is enthusiastic to offer support for SB0010.

Walkiria Pool

CEO

Centro de Apoyo Familiar

wpool@mycaf.com

240-593-2042

Yara Changyit-Levin - RREA Senate Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Yara Changyit-Levin

Position: FAV



Bill Title: SB0010 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025

Position: SUPPORT (FAV)

To: Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

From: Yara Changyit-Levin, Community Member, on behalf of Progressive Maryland

Date: 02/05/2025

Dear, Honorable Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and the members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee.

My name is Yara Changyit-Levin, and I'm addressing you as a supporter of the Progressive Maryland Environmental Justice Task Force. I'm a member of the Sunrise Movement, a youth movement organizing across race and class to stop the climate crisis and invest in Black, Brown, and working class communities. I live in Legislative District 40 and I am writing to **express my strong support of SB0010 the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025.**

This bill has become even more urgent than we assumed during the last legislative session, given the changes in leadership at the federal level. On January 15th of this year, I drove from my home in Baltimore to Washington, D.C., in freezing temperatures, to protest the nomination of Chris Wright, a fossil fuel executive, for Secretary of Energy. I watched my friends be dragged out of the Senate hearing room for standing up and calling attention to the Los Angeles wildfires. The federal government no longer takes the climate crisis seriously, but young people in Maryland do, because our lives are on the line.

It is now up to the state level to lead on clean energy. There is no time, and no money, to waste.

The Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) is a vital tool to support clean, renewable energy, but it is being misused as long as trash incineration is allowed to benefit from millions of dollars in subsidies. The Baltimore City incinerator pours lead, mercury, formaldehyde, particulate matter, nitrous oxides, and sulfur dioxide into adjacent South Baltimore communities. There is no safe level of exposure for these pollutants.^{1,2} Meanwhile, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation reports that the incinerator causes \$55 million in health damages each year, burdening Baltimore residents who already struggle to cope with healthcare costs.³

Not to mention, if trash incineration remains in the RPS, between 2023 and 2030, Maryland energy providers will waste an additional \$200,00,000 to buy Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) from trash incinerators.⁴ This is 200 million dollars used to subsidize the burning of trash.

It is the responsibility of this committee to correct this environmental injustice and instead, direct funds towards better renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, and geothermal energy. Passing the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act will reallocate money Maryland is already spending to more effectively tackle

¹ "Mercury exposure and children's health" (Bose-O'Reilly S, McCarty KM, Steckling N, Lettmeier B., 2010)

² "Lead in Food and Foodwares" (FDA, 2025)



PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND

P.O. Box 6988, Largo MD 20774

ProgressiveMaryland.org

Info@progressivemaryland.org

³ “South Baltimore Advocates File Civil Rights Complaint on Incinerator Pollution Threats” (Chesapeake Bay Foundation, 2024)

⁴ PEER Report (PEER, 2024)

climate change, with no cost to the state budget.

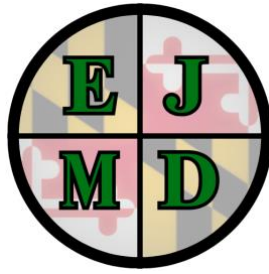
Maryland’s RPS should be used to finance a just transition away from fossil fuels, not fund environmental injustice in Baltimore. I find it unacceptable that my monthly energy bill as a Baltimore resident in Remington is supporting the wealth of an incinerator that contributes to asthma and cancer hospitalizations in Cherry Hill, Brooklyn, and Westport. If this environmental injustice is similarly unacceptable to this Committee, I know that you will pass the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

Thank you to the Committee for your time.

2025 RREA Testimony (EJMD).pdf

Uploaded by: Zack Buster Buster

Position: FAV



Zack Buster

*Founder & Executive Director
Environmental Justice Maryland*

(410)-215-1403

contact.ejmd@gmail.com
zackbuster4md@gmail.com

Esteemed members of the Maryland General Assembly,

My name is Zack Buster, and I am writing on behalf of the community nonprofit initiative Environmental Justice Maryland to urgently encourage your support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025. (SB-10/HB-220) Over 20 years ago, the legislature worked together to establish the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Program to incentivize the switch to renewable, clean energy and ensure a better, greener future.

However, additions were made to the portfolio that directly undermined the legislative intent of promoting **green and clean** renewable energy. One of these mistakes was adding waste incineration into the renewable portfolio standard in 2011. While incineration may be renewable, it is neither green nor clean and is therefore directly in opposition to the portfolio's goals.

Waste incineration's inclusion in the RPS not only goes against the intent of the law but is also in conflict with our overall goals as a state. The environment is a Top 10 priority in the 2024 Moore-Miller State Plan, which includes a commitment to "invest in **clean** energy." However, as long as waste incineration is included in the portfolio, the tax dollars of myself and every other Marylander are indirectly funding dirty energy and polluting the overburdened and underserved communities of South Baltimore. I am writing because I live near a coal power plant and experience the effects of environmental injustice every time I take a breath in my own backyard.

As we all know, Maryland is currently in a fiscal position where we need to use every dollar of the people's money for our strategic goals and make life better for every Marylander. In addition to aligning our investments with our values, the \$24 million in funding that subsidized these sources of harmful pollution would go to truly green and clean energy. This bill would allow for the funding we set aside for the program to go much further toward its goals.

In conclusion, this bill would stop our taxes from funding environmental injustices, make our investments more impactful, and reduce the fiscal strain on the state during this time of great budgetary concerns. It is time for Maryland to end this decade-long contradiction and remove waste incineration from the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Program. For these reasons, I respectfully request a **favorable** report on SB-10/HB-220.

SB10 - Renewable Portfolio Standard ShoreRivers Te

Uploaded by: Benjamin Ford

Position: FWA



Testimony in FAVOR WITH AMENDMENTS for Senate Bill 10

2/11/2025

Dear Chair Feldman and esteemed members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee,

On behalf of ShoreRivers, I am writing to express our position of **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** for **SB10 – Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources – Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)**. As a science-based advocacy and restoration organization dedicated to protecting and restoring the waterways of Maryland's Eastern Shore, we urge the Committee to **amend SB10 and issue a favorable report** on this critical legislation.

As an organization committed to clean water, environmental justice, and community resilience, ShoreRivers recognizes that climate change directly impacts our ability to fulfill our mission. We have seen firsthand the devastating effects of rising waters, increased nutrient pollution from extreme rainfall, and damage to critical oyster and wetland restoration projects—challenges that will only worsen without immediate action. We applaud the intent of SB10 and agree that **waste-to-energy and refuse-derived fuel should not be included** in the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) or any future "Clean" Energy Portfolio Standard.

However, we also urge the Committee to amend SB10 to **remove poultry litter-to-energy and anaerobic digestion** as "Tier 1" renewable or clean energy sources. The combustion of methane, regardless of its source, produces two major byproducts: **water (H₂O) and carbon dioxide (CO₂)**. **Energy sources that emit greenhouse gases should not, and cannot reasonably, be considered "clean" energy. Therefore, these sources should be excluded from the RPS and any future Clean Energy Portfolio.**

Currently, the RPS states that:

"It is the intent of the General Assembly to: (1) recognize the economic, environmental, fuel diversity, and security benefits of renewable energy resources; [and] (2) reduce greenhouse gas emissions and eliminate carbon-fueled generation from the State's electric grid by using these resources."

Because anaerobic digestion produces methane—a greenhouse gas **28 times more potent than carbon dioxide at trapping heat—and its combustion results in CO₂ emissions, its inclusion in a renewable or clean energy portfolio is inappropriate.**

Furthermore, the inclusion of carbon-emitting energy sources and their associated Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) within the state RPS discourages the transition to **truly clean, renewable energy**. Additionally, anaerobic digestion produces **digestate**, which requires proper management to prevent environmental harm, including nutrient pollution. Poorly managed digesters or

ShoreRivers

Isabel Hardesty, Executive Director

Annie Richards, Chester Riverkeeper | Matt Pluta, Choptank Riverkeeper

Ben Ford, Miles Wye Riverkeeper | Zack Kelleher, Sassafras Riverkeeper

methane-burning facilities can also generate **strong odors**, negatively impacting surrounding communities.

For these reasons, we urge the Committee to amend SB10 to **remove anaerobic digestion from the Tier 1 list within the RPS** and then issue a **favorable report** for SB10.

Thank you for your leadership in addressing this urgent issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BF' with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Benjamin Ford, Miles-Wye Riverkeeper, on behalf of ShoreRivers

SB 10 - MoCo_Elrich_FWA (GA 25).pdf

Uploaded by: Marc Elrich

Position: FWA



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

February 13, 2025

TO: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich
County Executive

RE: Senate Bill 10, *Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations*
(*Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025*)

Support with Amendment

I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 10, the *Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025*.

The Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) was established to encourage the development of clean, renewable, domestic sources of electricity generation like wind and solar. This bill will refocus the RPS by removing energy derived from waste from counting as Tier 1 renewable energy sources. This change will appropriately focus investment dollars on the development of wind and solar resources in our region.

Waste-to-energy is misaligned with the goal of the RPS. These systems are primarily designed to accomplish solid waste management, generating electricity as a by-product. Including waste to-energy as a Tier 1 resource under Maryland's RPS incentivizes these systems and could slow the development of cleaner and more truly renewable energy sources.

Removing waste-to-energy from RPS eligibility will result in a financial impact to Montgomery County due to the loss of revenue from the sale of renewable energy credits. However, in the long term, this change will make a meaningful difference toward meeting our climate and zero waste goals.

I am requesting one amendment to delay the application of this change to the Tier 1 list to allow us a brief transition period to support our zero waste efforts. I appreciate the Sponsor's agreement to support this amendment.

With the inclusion of the referenced amendment, I respectfully request that the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee give this important bill a favorable report.

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

Written Testimony - SB10.pdf

Uploaded by: David Pendleton

Position: UNF

DAVID PENDELTON SR.
Chairperson/Director

TOM CAHILL
Vice Chairperson/Assistant
Director

BRITTANY GARRIS
Secretary



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February 10, 2025

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair; Cheryl Kagan, Vice Chair
And members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

REPRESENTATIVES

CUMBERLAND
Local 600
RANDY MARTZ

BRUNSWICK
Local 631
TOM CAHILL

EDMONSTON
Local 1470
BRITTANY GARRIS

BALTIMORE
Local 610
JOHN WALKER

Local 1949
JACOB STROMAN

Unfavorable - SB-10 Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources – Alterations2
(Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)

Hello, my name is David Pendleton. I am the Director of the Maryland Safety and Legislative Board for the Transportation Division of the International Association of Sheet Metal Air Rail Transportation Workers (SMART). Our members in the State of Maryland are employed by CSX Transportation, Norfolk Southern, Canton Railroad, Amtrak and MARC (Amtrak and Alstom). We are Train Conductors, Locomotive Engineers, Yardmasters, Switchmen and Utility Workers. We are the **TRAIN UNION**.

On behalf of the members we serve, I am urging this committee to vote **unfavorably** on SB10.

SB10 would exclude waste-to-energy as a “*tier 1 renewable source*”, making it ineligible for inclusion in the renewable portfolio standard.

Waste-to-Energy is an invaluable Greenhouse gas mitigating tool. If we were to compare how this technology was used around the world. There would be no finer example than Sweden.

Considered the [greenest](#) country in the world, with 5 of the top 25 cities with the cleanest air in [Europe](#), Sweden has over 34 WTE facilities in its borders. It only sends 1% of its waste to landfills and each of the 5 cities ([Uppsala](#), [Umea](#), [Norrkoping](#), [Stockholm](#), [Gothengurg](#)) on the cleanest air list has a WTE facility operating within its [city limits](#). Dispelling the notion that WTE facilities are bad for air quality.

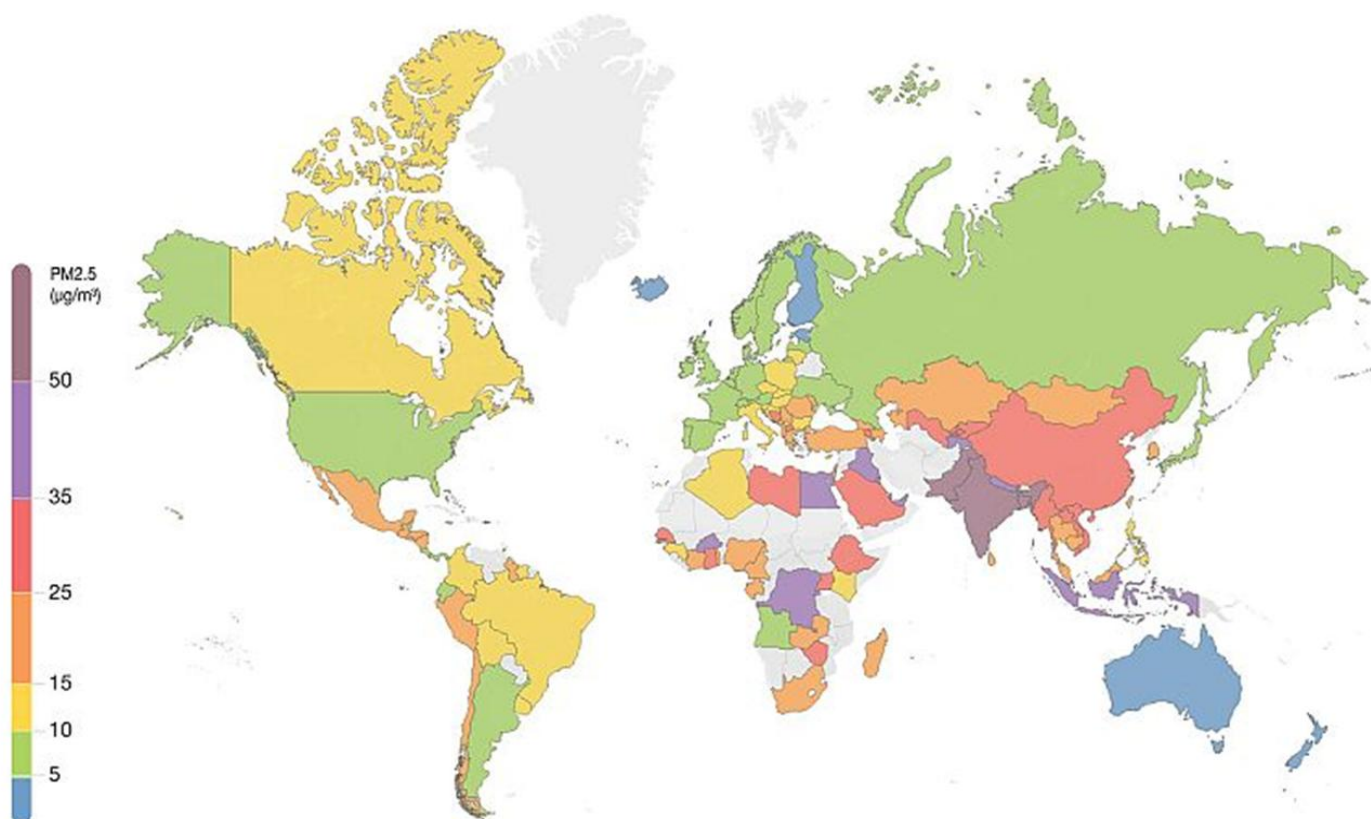
In addition to the 99% of waste that’s disposed of through WTE in Sweden, it also imports nearly [2 million](#) tons of waste from other [countries](#) and brings in over 100 million euros a year doing so. The WTE industry in Sweden is a [\\$2-billion](#) a year industry, creating jobs, generating nearly 15% of the heat and 8% of the electricity used by its citizens in the process.

Maryland should be leading the way on the use of this technology. There are 5 [neighboring](#) upwind states that causes most of the air pollution in Maryland. They may be our first customers should this service be made available to them.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our position. We urge an unfavorable report!

Sincerely,

David Sr
David Pendleton Sr., Chairperson/Director
Maryland Safety & Legislative Board, LO-023
SMART Transportation Division



Concentrations of PM2.5 around the globe-IQAir
Based on data from the 2024 World Air Quality Report

SB 10 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Elig

Uploaded by: Donna Edwards

Position: UNF



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.

SB0010_UNF_NWRA_Renewable Energy Portfolio Standar

Uploaded by: Drew Vetter

Position: UNF

Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association

a chapter of the



Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

February 13, 2025

Senate Bill 10 – *Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources – Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)***POSITION: OPPOSE**

The Maryland chapter of the National Waste and Recycling Association (NWRA-MD) is a trade association representing the private solid waste industry in the State of Maryland. Its membership includes hauling and collection companies, processing and recycling facilities, transfer stations, and disposal facilities. NWRA-MD and its members oppose Senate Bill 10.

Waste-to-energy is not only a renewable source of energy, but also regarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a reliable and responsible method of waste disposal, and is subject to stringent state and federal air, water, and solid waste regulations. As the Association representing the entire private solid waste industry, we are deeply concerned about how this bill will affect the waste-to-energy facilities in the State of Maryland and the jurisdictions that rely on them for management of their solid waste. For example, WIN Waste Innovations, formerly Wheelabrator Technologies, operates a waste-to-energy facility servicing the City of Baltimore, Baltimore County, and numerous commercial clients. It processes up to 2,250 tons of post-recycled waste each day, resulting in 400,000 megawatts of clean electricity, while also providing steam for downtown Baltimore's heating and cooling system.

The Maryland Department of Environment data shows that Maryland waste generation is increasing, not decreasing. Landfills are rapidly approaching capacity in Maryland. Removing waste-to-energy would be a step backward toward increasing the availability of renewable energy in Maryland and would negatively impact the jurisdictions for which waste-to-energy is a critical component of their solid waste management infrastructure. As such, an unfavorable report is requested.

For more information:

Andrew G. Vetter

J. Steven Wise

Danna L. Kauffman

410-244-7000

Reworld Testimony on SB10.pdf

Uploaded by: Frazier Blaylock

Position: UNF

Testimony on Senate Bill 10 – 2/13/2025

Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

By Frazier Blaylock

Reworld is the operator of the Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility, located in Dickerson, MD. Resource Recovery, more commonly known as Waste-to-Energy (WTE) is a clean, local, efficient, and economical form of renewable baseload energy production and post-recycled waste disposal.

This facility in Dickerson helps Maryland divert waste from landfills while producing energy to reduce our reliance on expensive out of state generation sources. This is a time for Maryland to be supporting our in-state generating facilities, not sending more of our dollars to out of state sources. We oppose SB 10.

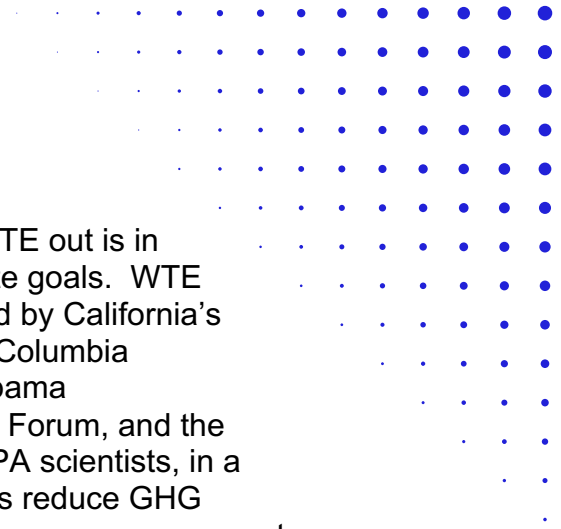
The Montgomery plant generates enough electricity to power 30,000 homes for a year, or power 75,000 electric cars for a year. It represents one of the few in-state sources of electricity generation we have.

Removing WTE from the RPS will cost Montgomery County approximately \$13MM in annual Renewable Energy Credit (REC) revenue and thus result in an increase in taxes for Montgomery County residents and businesses.

The elimination of waste-to-energy as a Tier 1 renewable source would ignore the many benefits these facilities bring to our communities and treat it unfairly in the very competitive energy and disposal markets.

Montgomery County sets a sustainable example for other Counties in Maryland by taking care of our own trash. We do not export our municipal solid waste to other states' landfills, but rail it from Shady Grove out to Dickerson avoiding hundreds of trash trucks from traveling our highways. Our neighbors in Frederick County, for example, transport 96% of their waste by trailer trucks to a private landfill in Chambersburg, PA. We believe that Montgomery County's self-sufficiency should be rewarded, not penalized.

SB 10 would continue to allow out-of-state landfills, which are as far away as OH and IL to earn Maryland RECs, while our in-state waste-to-energy plants would be disqualified. This policy would have the result of adding to the state's budget crisis by sending MD ratepayer dollars to out-of-state energy sources that do not pay MD state taxes or employ our citizens.



Allowing landfills to sell RECs into Tier 1 while cutting WTE out is in direct conflict with climate science and our State's climate goals. WTE GHG benefits relative to landfilling have been recognized by California's air and waste regulatory agencies, U.S. EPA scientists, Columbia University's Earth Engineering Center, U.S. EPA, the Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan, the World Economic Forum, and the Joint Institute for Strategic Energy Analysis ("NREL"). EPA scientists, in a prominent peer reviewed paper, concluded WTE facilities reduce GHG emissions relative to even those landfills equipped with energy recovery systems. The Montgomery facility alone avoids 442,000 metric tons of GHGs each year, which is equivalent to removing 109,000 vehicles for 1 year or displacing 546 million pounds of coal.

The benefits of diverting waste away from landfills to recycling and energy recovery are clearer than ever. Across a series of recent studies employing direct measurement of methane plumes via aircraft downwind of landfills, actual measured emissions from landfills have averaged twice the amount reported in GHG inventories, including Maryland's.

Furthermore, Maryland's inventory downplays methane's role in the climate, using an outdated methane GWP. Today, scientists recognize methane as a potent short-lived climate pollutant that is more than 30 times stronger than CO₂ over 100 years, and 84 times stronger over 20 years, when all of its impacts are considered. States currently leading on climate, like New York and California, have adopted methane's 20-year GWP in planning and legislation.

To remove WTE from Tier one and yet leave landfill gas in Tier 1 is counter to Maryland's goal of reducing the GHG's that contribute to climate change. It is also going to raise the cost of trash disposal for the citizens of Montgomery County, who will need to pay for the \$13MM shortfall in the County budget going forward.

We urge the committee to reject SB 10.

SB10.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Gerber

Position: UNF



Gerber's Inc.

Complete Trash Removal Service

P.O. BOX 942 • 200 COCKEYSVILLE RD. • COCKEYSVILLE, MARYLAND 21030 • PHONE 410-771-1321

Senators Bill Ferguson, Karen Lewis Young, and Bryan Simonaire
H-107 State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Senate Bill 10 (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)

Gerber's Refuse is a Baltimore County-based refuse removal business that has been operating for more than 85 years. The company is against Senate Bill 10, which would increase our business costs by eliminating renewable energy subsidies for Maryland waste-to-energy companies.

The subsidies that WIN Waste Baltimore receives for generating renewable energy help keep our disposal costs for hauling trash to the facility low. Removing the subsidies will increase WIN Waste's cost of doing business, which will be passed along to hauling companies like Gerber's.

When our costs go up, we only have two options. We can either increase our prices, which hurts other Maryland companies that contract with us, or we can cut our expenses, which means laying off employees. We can't keep paying and charging higher prices. We can't keep paying higher disposal costs, and our customers can't keep paying higher hauling costs. We need to protect our team members who do the hard work of managing our state's trash.

Gerber's can't afford to lose WIN Waste as an affordable disposal option, and neither can Maryland. Baltimore and Maryland don't have the landfill capacity to take the trash that WIN Waste processes every year. If this legislation forces WIN Waste Baltimore to close, the city and other localities will have to spend millions of dollars to build more landfill space or to ship more waste to out-of-state disposal sites.

This isn't environmentally or economically sustainable. We need to protect the Maryland companies that employ Maryland residents and manage Maryland's waste. Senate Bill 10 will do the opposite.

That is why Gerber's Refuse opposes this bill and respectfully asks lawmakers to vote against it.

Respectfully,

Michael E. Gerber, Sr.

Sternfeld written testimony - SB10.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Sternfeld

Position: UNF

To the Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair; Cheryl Kagan, Vice Chair; and members of the Education Energy and the Environment Committee

My name is Michael Sternfeld. I have been a resident of Montgomery County for over 40 years. I am a retired US Army Lieutenant Colonel, and Railroader with over 20 years of experience in railroad operations. I have a MA in Transportation Policy, Operations and Logistics from George Mason University. I also have experience driving Class 8 Heavy Duty trucks in congested urban areas such as New York City and Northern New Jersey.

I want to take this time to convey my opposition to **SB10, the Reclaim Renewables Act of 2025**.

Dickerson Generating Station is located in Montgomery County. The practice of burning waste material in large scale incinerators is presently being attacked by groups claiming to be environmentally friendly. The rallying cry for closing the Dickerson operation is to end toxic air pollution.

No doubt these same groups who do not want to burn trash in Montgomery County would be shocked to learn that closing Dickerson and transporting the waste to landfills by modern diesel truck would put an additional 300 trucks a day on the road, burning over 3 million gallons of diesel fuel, emitting nearly 70 million pounds of CO₂e air pollution using the figures found on the Louisiana Clean Fuels [website](#).

Greenhouse gas emissions are directly related to fuel consumption. Thus, trucking the solid waste to a landfill creates more pollution in the form of diesel exhaust. Leaving waste in a landfill would release untold amounts of methane gas into the environment. Methane gas is a potent short-lived climate pollutant that is more than 30 times stronger than CO₂ over 100 years, and 84 times stronger over 20 years.

Removing WTE from tier 1 of the RPS, closing Dickerson, would make Perfect, the enemy of good.

Per the USEPA:

"Diesel engine pollution can have serious health and environmental consequences.

Health Effects

**Respiratory illnesses: Diesel exhaust can cause asthma, respiratory illnesses, and worsen existing lung disease.*

**Heart disease: Diesel exhaust can increase the risk of heart disease and hospital admissions.*

**Cancer: Diesel exhaust is considered carcinogenic to humans.*

**Ground-level ozone: Diesel exhaust contributes to ground-level ozone, which can irritate the lungs and make it difficult to breathe.*

**New allergies: Diesel exhaust particles can trigger new allergies.*

Environmental effects

**Acid rain: Diesel exhaust produces acid rain, which can harm soil, lakes, and streams.*

Crop damage: Diesel exhaust contributes to ground-level ozone. Which can damage crops and other vegetation.

- *Climate change: Diesel engines produce greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.*

What diesel exhaust contains

**Particulate matter (PM): The solid material in diesel exhaust, including diesel particulate matter (DPM)*

**Oxides of nitrogen (Nox): A component of diesel exhaust.*

**Hydrocarbons (HC): A component of diesel exhaust.*

**Carbon monoxide (CO): A component of diesel exhaust.*

How bad are diesel fumes for you?

Health Risks: Long-term exposure to diesel exhaust is associated with respiratory problems, cardiovascular diseases, and increased risk of lung cancer. Short-term exposure can cause irritation of the eyes, nose, and throat, headaches and dizziness. Aug 27, 2017"

When all of its impacts are considered, removing Waste-To-Energy as a tier1 renewable source of energy from the Renewable Portfolio Standard would adversely affect Dickerson, which has been responsible for avoiding 442,000 metric tons of Greenhouse Gases each year, the equivalent of removing 109,000 vehicles from the road for 1 year. It would raise taxes on Montgomery County residents, due to the loss of the Energy credit, significantly produce more CO2 emissions, significantly produce more Methane gas and significantly increase traffic.

This is a bad idea! As a transportation industry professional with a graduate degree, I cannot see any advantage in trucking waste to an out of state landfill. The net effect of closure is actually an increase in taxes, pollution and heavy-duty truck traffic.

I thank the committee for its time and urge an unfavorable report.

Cahill Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Tom Cahill

Position: UNF

DAVID PENDELTON SR.
Chairperson/Director

TOM CAHILL
Vice Chairperson/Assistant
Director

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Secretary



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February 11, 2025

To the Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair; Cheryl Kagan, Vice Chair and Members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee.

My name is Tom Cahill. I'm a 29-year employee of CSX Transportation currently working as a locomotive engineer out of Brunswick, MD. I want to express my opposition to **SB10 – the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025** and highlight the positive role that Waste-to-energy plays in providing a clean, refined, and efficient source of energy to the residents of Montgomery County.

CSX currently provides a six-day per week service to Dickerson Generating Station where double-stacked containers loaded with solid waste collected from county residents and businesses are moved from the Shady Grove Transfer Station to Dickerson.

CSX generally moves 75 to 94 containers of waste at a time. Just one container car can handle what would be three truckloads of solid waste. One train keeps 225 - 300 diesel trucks off of Montgomery County's roads, daily. Ash produced at Dickerson is moved by another CSX crew to Brunswick where it is added to freight trains and sent to out-of-state recovery facilities.

Dickerson Generating Station has been a good idea since its conception and continues to play a vital role in waste disposal for the county to this day. Power generated there provides heat and electricity for 30,000 homes. Giving relief to the region's extremely stressed electrical grid. Dickerson has evolved over the years to stay at the forefront of clean burning and efficient [technologies](#) just as CSX's locomotives have evolved to meet current [Tier 4](#) requirements for exhaust emissions.

The partnership between CSX, ReWorld and Montgomery County is the best and cleanest method to manage this residual waste with the benefit of contributing to the regional electric grid. Alternative proposals to truck county waste out of state would negatively affect local air quality, add to traffic, and take a reliable, renewable, locally produced source of power off of Maryland's strained power grid.

The current partnership also provides good paying Union jobs at both CSX and ReWorld Waste, manager of the Shady Grove Transfer Station and Dickerson Generating Station. Additionally, providing good paying jobs in support of local companies that maintain equipment at these facilities.


The partnership is a win-win for all those involved, especially the county residents who are the electric utility customers in the region.

I ask for your support of this program for years to come and urge an Unfavorable Report!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "T. E. Cahill".

Thomas E Cahill, Vice Chairperson/Assistant Director
Maryland Safety & Legislative Board, LO-023

 Transportation Division



SB10 - EEE - UNF Testimony_murban.pdf

Uploaded by: Valerie Skvirsky

Position: UNF



TO: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Members, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
The Honorable Bil Ferguson, President of the Senate

FROM: Mary Urban

DATE: February 13, 2025

RE: **OPPOSE** – Senate Bill 0010 – *Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources – Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)*

On behalf of WIN Waste Innovations and our Baltimore facility (WIN Waste), we submit this letter of **opposition** to Senate Bill 10 because it removes waste-to-energy as a Tier 1 renewable energy source from the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS). Such a change would have a significant negative impact on WIN Waste, our waste management customers, including the City of Baltimore, our local vendors and subcontractors and the State's ability to reach its own goals relating to, greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction, and investment in renewable energy and in-state energy generation.

WIN Waste is an integral part of Maryland's energy, environmental, and economic infrastructure, providing sustainable waste management for the City of Baltimore and Baltimore County. Every day, we divert waste from landfills to annually convert nearly 800,000 tons of post-recycled waste from area homes and businesses into 340,000 megawatt hours of clean, renewable baseload electricity – enough to power ~31,000 Maryland homes, while reducing landfilling, lowering GHG, recycling ~12,000 tons of metals that would also otherwise be landfilled and offsetting the need for nearly 650,000 barrels of oil.

During the summer of 2023, WIN Waste completed more than \$45 million in upgrades to its Baltimore WTE facility, ensuring its emissions are among the lowest of any such facility in the world. As you can see below, the WIN Waste Baltimore facility emissions are well below the EPA, the more restrictive MDE and the most restrictive Baltimore City standards. The company will continue to aggressively invest in maintenance for all areas of the facility to ensure its continued high reliability, safety, and efficiency well into the future. WIN Waste will also continue to invest in new technologies and equipment to ensure the facility operates within strict state and federal guidelines designed to protect the environment and public health. **Moreover, the company will continue to invest nearly \$1 million annually to Baltimore City community and environmental initiatives.**

Our emissions are below the U.S. EPA standards, the more restrictive Maryland state standards, and the most restrictive Baltimore City standards for protection of human health and safety.

EMISSION	UNITS	U.S. EPA STANDARDS	MARYLAND STANDARDS	BALTIMORE STANDARDS (voluntarily reduction)	WIN WASTE 2024 PERFORMANCE	WIN WASTE DIFFERENCE
NOx	ppm	205	145	105 (voluntarily reduced)	101	30% below
SO2	ppm	29	29	18	11	62% below
Dioxins	ng/dscm	35	30	15	2	93% below
Mercury	ug/dscm	50	50	15	0.5	99% below
Cadmium	ug/dscm	35	35	25	0.4	98% below
Lead	ug/dscm	400	400	250	5.6	99% below

Energy-from-waste reduces GHG by approximately 1.3 tons for every ton of waste processed. In addition, WIN Waste generates “green steam” for downtown Baltimore’s heating and cooling system, which services 255 businesses, including the M&T Bank Stadium, home of the Baltimore Ravens. It is essential that the committee take a holistic look at the objectives of the RPS and the broad and ongoing role of WTE, which results in a net reduction of GHG in multiple ways and incentivizes in-state, non-fossil fuel generation.

WTE is one of the few renewable energy sources primarily generated in Maryland. According to the [2022 RPS Annual Report](#), the majority of Maryland's RPS obligations were met through the purchase and retirement of renewable energy credits (RECs). Only 19 percent of the RECs used for compliance in 2021 came from in-state sources, with WTE representing most of that portion. In fact, in 2022, Maryland ratepayers sent hundreds of millions of dollars out of state to landfills, poultry-waste facilities and more. In the same year, Illinois landfills received \$3.6 million of Maryland ratepayer money from Tier 1 status.

Energy-from-waste has been endorsed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as the preferred method to landfilling for waste disposal. In fact, it’s embraced by the European Environmental Agency, the Center for American Progress, the World Economic Forum, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Kyoto Protocol’s Clean Development Mechanism, and the United Nations Environment Programme, among many others. More than 30 states recognize waste to energy as renewable energy.

Moreover, Baltimore City’s 2020 “Less Waste, Better Baltimore” Master Plan recommends continued utilization of energy-from-waste because the alternative of long-haul trucking is “a

cost- prohibitive and environmentally degrading option.” In fact, the master plan and other analyses have estimated eliminating WTE from the local waste management process would cost taxpayers as much as \$100 million over several years. That amount would include expanding local landfill capacity and building truck and rail transfer stations to transport an increased volume of waste to out-of-state disposal sites.

In its December 2017 report, the Environmental Integrity Project, funded by the Abell Foundation, reported that “on-road vehicles are the largest contributor to the air pollution that people breathe in Baltimore

As Maryland waste volumes continue to increase, jurisdictions are already hauling waste to out-of-state landfills using tractor trailers. This additional tractor-trailer traffic, which increases air pollution and fossil-fuel usage, will continue to grow if less waste is safely and responsibly managed locally. According to the Maryland Department of the Environment, nearly 14 million tons of waste was generated in Maryland counties and the City of Baltimore during calendar year 2021, up 19.3 percent from the roughly 11.6 million tons generated in calendar year 2020. WTE plays an essential role in reducing the volume of waste filling local landfills and being trucked to distant disposal sites.

A 2020 study by the Abell Foundation confirms that social determinants of health are a primary driver of asthma in Baltimore City. It found, “The link between environmental exposures and asthma symptom burden is clear: Children are more likely to experience asthma exacerbations if they live in areas with high rates of housing code violations or if they are exposed to high levels of allergens or environmental triggers in the home. Research indicates that more than 84% of homes of children with asthma in Baltimore City contain detectable levels of mouse allergens in bedroom dust and air samples.”

As reflected in the December 2019 Report of the Maryland Power Plant Research Program, Figure ES-11, WIN Waste's Baltimore facility is an important economic engine to the region – providing jobs, economic stimulus in the form of capital investments and the purchase of goods and services, local property taxes, and we remain actively engaged in a series of community, environmental and economic initiatives spending tens of millions in the region annually.

As you consider Senate Bill 10, we hope you will recognize the tremendous environmental and economic benefits WIN Waste provides to Maryland. The elimination of energy-from-waste as a Tier 1 renewable energy source will adversely affect the continued viability of WIN Waste, but also Maryland’s ability to meet its high RPS goals. Renewable energy credits help the facility continue to provide affordable and dependable disposal services to the City and the County, while promoting and supporting recycling, diverting waste from landfills, and reducing GHG. Jeopardizing and disadvantaging one of Maryland’s essential in-state generators at a time when the State faces significant challenges with energy reliability and affordability is counter-productive to the State’s broader energy and climate goals.

For all these reasons, Win urges the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to give Senate Bill 10 an unfavorable report, and stands ready to work with President Ferguson and the Committee to develop a renewable energy strategy that benefits Maryland ratepayers, workers, and generators.