



PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND

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Bill Title: [HB1572](#) Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources – Waste-to-Energy

Position: OPPOSE (OPP)

To: Environment and Transportation Committee

From: Iman Habib, Climate Policy Analyst on behalf of Progressive Maryland

Date: February 19, 2026

Dear Chair Korman and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

I am Iman Habib, the Climate Policy Analyst for Progressive Maryland (PMD). We are a member-led, power-building organization advocating for working class people tackling a myriad of social justice issues, including environmental justice. We have over 125,000 members across Maryland with substantial membership bases in Baltimore City, Prince George's, Montgomery, Frederick, and Harford counties, and the Eastern Shore. **Progressive Maryland is in strong opposition to House Bill 1572.** This bill will reverse years of progress toward developing a more accurate definition for what constitutes clean energy and can be subsidized by ratepayer money.

Southeast Baltimore City residents, especially from the neighborhoods of Westport and Cherry Hill, have long endured the environmental and health burdens associated with living in close proximity to the WIN Waste Wheelabrator ("BRESKO") incinerator. Last year, these community members advocated for and successfully removed waste-to-energy from the list of eligible clean energy sources listed under the Maryland Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Up until this moment, Baltimore residents were financing the demise of their own health and well-being.

Passing this bill would allow for industries such as BRESKO to continue their deleterious practice of using ratepayer money to subsidize energy produced from burning trash all while they demolish the surrounding environment and community. Polluting industries, including incinerators are disproportionately placed in or near Black and Brown communities, subjecting those residents to bear the brunt of the negative health and environmental harms produced by these structures. This bill will not only nullify decades of resilience and efforts to discontinue financing dirty energy, but it will also send a clear message to members of these communities: that Maryland is dismissing their years of exploitation and will actually make them pay for their own demolition. **These reasons demonstrate Progressive Maryland's robust opposition to House Bill 1572 and we urge an unfavorable report.**