

**Written Testimony of Ian Ayers, President, RECMint  
In Opposition to HB 345  
Maryland House Environment and Transportation Committee  
February 10, 2026**

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 345. My name is Ian Ayers, and I am the President of RECMint, a renewable energy certificate (REC) aggregator operating across state renewable portfolio standard (RPS) markets, including here in Maryland. When households or small businesses invest their own capital in rooftop solar systems, we help these customers seamlessly sell their RECs so they don't have to worry about that complex transaction. We manage this process for more than 1,500 Marylanders. Our role gives us a direct view of how the Renewable Portfolio Standard in Maryland is operating, and what policies could help to improve the market design.

We share the goal of this bill: increasing the pace of clean energy deployment in Maryland in a cost-effective manner. However, for the reasons outlined below, we respectfully oppose HB 345.

First, moving to an Administratively Determined Incentive (ADI) framework, like that offered in this bill, will stall the progress Maryland has experienced over the last year. Since the Brighter Tomorrow Act took effect on July 1, 2024, we have observed new renewable project activity and improved market participation. This legislation is working to support new solar development. Conditions today are meaningfully different than when this concept was first contemplated. Recent legislative action is working, and it deserves sufficient time to fully take effect before Maryland undertakes a wholesale redesign of its Renewable Portfolio Standard framework.

Second, transitioning to the framework contemplated under this legislation would result in a slow, administratively complex program. HB 345 would introduce a centralized procurement mechanism that would not meaningfully deliver new generation until 2028, while requiring the creation and ongoing operation of a new administrative structure. At a moment when momentum is returning to Maryland's solar market, layering a complex new procurement framework onto the existing RPS risks introducing additional delays, uncertainty, and administrative expense.

Third, this legislation will not address the core concern of affordability. Maryland's RPS has historically been one of the state's most effective clean energy policy tools. Open markets allow prices to adjust dynamically based on real supply and demand, helping ensure that REC prices are a true market signal. Transitioning to the ADI under this proposal could result in a process where ratepayers are locked into long-term, above-market prices that are determined by a regulator. This would produce the opposite result, leading to higher prices and reducing affordability.

We appreciate the intent behind HB 345 and the Committee's focus on accelerating clean energy development while preserving affordability. However, given the positive early results of recent reforms, we believe this legislation could stall that momentum and lead to higher costs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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