



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

February 20, 2025

TO: The Honorable C. T. Wilson
Chair, Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich
County Executive

RE: House Bill 220, *Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2025)*

Support with Amendment

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 220, 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 Economic Matters Committee give this important bill a favorable report.

cc: Members of the Economic Matters Committee