



FORMERLY THE NO INCINERATOR ALLIANCE

**Testimony in Favor of HB 332
House Economic Matters Committee / Senate Finance Committee
Hearing: February 4, 2021**

We are a citizen organization originally founded to oppose an incinerator project that was set to be built jointly by Frederick and Carroll Counties, in Frederick County. After a number of years, we prevailed, and both counties have been working on ways to manage “waste” that make better sense than to burn it. **Since we have learned so much about the negative aspects of incineration, we are passionate about the subject and URGE you to remove trash incineration from Maryland’s Renewable Portfolio Standard.**

Below is our testimony to support HB 332.

In 2019, Frederick County broke ground on the Ballenger-McKinney Photovoltaic Solar Project — a 5-acre, 1.3-megawatt solar array. This project is special, not only because of the over \$100,000 it will save Frederick County every year. **It also takes the place of what would have been a municipal waste incinerator burning Frederick County and Carroll County’s waste, less than a mile away from two elementary schools.**

Frederick, alongside other communities across Maryland, is showing our commitment to moving away from trash incineration, toward truly renewable energy and zero waste. **After a lengthy public process called “What’s Next,” our county is moving toward a robust system of diverting organics from the landfill.** This reduces by 30% or so the amount of material going into our landfill, and provides multiple benefits by diverting food to people and animals, and putting food waste back into our ecosystem through compost. There are positive climate benefits, as well, in that the production of the greenhouse gas, methane from decaying organics is greatly reduced.

The fact that trash incineration remains a Tier 1 renewable energy source in the state’s Renewable Portfolio Standard makes no sense and will continue to be a hindrance to the growth of ACTUAL renewable energy sources in Maryland, like solar and wind... and a hindrance to the adoption of zero waste principles like composting in our communities.

Why should Marylanders continue to subsidize this dirty technology?

There are many better ways to deal with waste/material management, and ways that provide many more jobs than incineration does.

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THE FREDERICK ZERO WASTE ALLIANCE REPRESENTS CITIZENS IN FREDERICK COUNTY WHOSE GOAL IS TO REDUCE OUR COMMUNITY’S SOLID WASTE TO A MINIMUM, USING ENVIRONMENTALLY AND ECONOMICALLY SUSTAINABLE METHODS.

It's time for Maryland's legislature to follow the youngest members of our community and the adaptive attitudes they are bringing to the table, and stop subsidizing trash incineration.

In Baltimore, teens and young adults have changed the conversation about the Bresco incinerator, which pollutes the air they breathe. Their environmental justice activism, and the self-education they've embarked on, is a harbinger of things to come, and legislators should listen to them.

Here in Frederick, much younger children are demonstrating their adaptive spirits, as elementary-age kids in several pilot schools have shown that with some education and a bit of oversight, they'll willingly — and even enthusiastically — divert 80 percent of their cafeteria "waste" into bins for organics, recyclables and liquids. Eighty percent! It's inspiring to see how readily the children — the youngest, in particular — understand and adapt.

It's becoming increasingly obvious that granting renewable energy status (and financial subsidies) to incinerators is an idea that simply cannot be justified, given that there are so many more effective ways to deal with "waste," and given that incinerators are not a renewable or efficient way to deliver energy.

Look to the children, teens, and young adults to see the way of the future. We must all be willing and able to adapt, moving away from old technologies and on toward more innovative and healthier ones. Maryland must pass HB 332 to help make this vision possible.

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Frederick, Maryland