



Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 332 Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources

February 2, 2021

Dear Chairman Davis and Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

350 Montgomery County supports HB 332 and respectfully requests that you vote in favor of it.

The objective of Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) is to recognize "the environmental and consumer benefits associated with renewable energy." Burning trash (mostly plastic) is one of the most toxic and polluting forms of energy generation, and yet it is subsidized with Maryland taxpayer money due to trash incineration's eligibility to meet Maryland RPS requirements. But burning trash is NOT actually recycling. Support of HB 332 will not require the closure of the existing trash incinerators in Maryland; however, it will remove subsidies that are paid by Maryland ratepayers.

The pollution emitted from trash incinerators has dangerous health effects on our citizens. Amongst other toxins, trash incineration emits large amounts of dioxins which cause cancer.

Furthermore, trash incineration is **incredibly bad for the climate**, releasing 2.5 times as much carbon dioxide CO₂ to make the same amount of electricity as a coal power plant. This is evidenced by national data compiled by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in their eGRID database.

For the reasons above, in furtherance of reasonable environmental, climate, and fiscal policy for the benefit of the citizens of Maryland, we adamantly request a FAVORABLE vote for HB 332 to remove trash from receiving Maryland ratepayer subsidies.

Most sincerely,

Jeffrey Weisner

President, Steering Committee

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