



TESTIMONY FOR HB0332 RENEWABLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO STANDARDS – ELIGIBLE SOURCES

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Ivey

Committee: Economic Matters

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0332 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our members are concerned about how much dirty energy we are actually subsidizing in Maryland. As we are sure you are aware, incineration is displacing clean energy in Maryland's RPS. Forty percent of our renewable "clean energy" comes from high-polluting energy sources (incineration, black liquor, biomass) and that percentage has grown almost 10 percent between 2017 and today. In 2019 alone, Maryland paid over \$32 million to buy renewable energy credits from dirty energy sources, some of them not even in Maryland.

Needless to say, this is pretty nuts and we will continue to throw money away in return for dirty energy unless and until we do something to take dirty energy producers out of the RPS.

Not to mention that burning trash is a poor way to produce energy: to produce the same amount of energy, trash incinerators emit more greenhouse gases than coal plants do. Trash incinerators are the dirtiest way to make electricity by most air pollution measures. Even with air pollution control equipment in place, trash incinerators emit more pollution than (largely uncontrolled) coal power plants per unit of energy produced.

Additionally, the pollution controls for our Maryland incinerators are worse than other facilities in the United States. The Dickerson and Wheelabrator incinerators would be illegal to operate if they were built today.

This threat to Maryland's ability to reduce reliance on dirty energy was recognized by Speaker Jones, who said recently, "climate change is an existential threat" and removing [dirty energy] from the RPS is an "important first step" in addressing it. Our members agree. It's past time to remove dirty energy from the RPS and focus on clean, renewable energy.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.