

Testimony of Andrew Hinz for
HB0332 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources

Members of the Economic Matters Committee

I live in Baltimore City, approximately 3.5 miles from the BRESKO incinerator. I am fed up with my and my community's health being disregarded by the unnecessary emission of NOx and toxic pollutants.

The facility is an ongoing health issue, causing 55M annually for the city in public health costs.

It does not produce electricity efficiently. It is as polluting, or more polluting, than a coal plant.

That as a Maryland resident I pay taxes to subsidize a facility that is injuring my own health is beyond comprehension. We do not need the incinerator. But, regardless of our city's efforts to divert the 40% of food waste we are generating to composting instead of burning it, improve our recycling recovery rate, and reduce the influx of single-use plastics, the subsidization of this harming, inefficient facility and those like it is unacceptable.

Here is a poem I wrote about this continuing unjust travesty:

one 800 cellular violence

oxygen honeycombs
human estuary of gas exchange
cytoplasmic veils gently vibrating
air and carbon glide through
macrophagia angle toward contagion
so we on the edge like reeds in the salty mud
breath air and music for
every second song of the universe

Here is context for the poem: In 2013 a Massachusetts Institute of Technology study revealed the Wheelabrator BRESKO trash incinerator has killed roughly eight thousand Baltimore City residents since it began operating in 1985—Destiny Watford organized the Curtis Bay community to prevent an incinerator from being built there in 2016.

Here is a picture of the facility polluting at sunrise:



I need you to do the right thing and stop subsidizing behavior that is harming me and my community.

Andrew Hinz
1427 Park Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21217
ahinz61@outlook.com
443-617-4079