



February 2, 2021

**Testimony on HB0332, Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources  
Economic Matters**

Hearing Date: February 4, 2021

Organization: Sunrise Movement Baltimore

Person Submitting: Katherine Longabaugh

**Position: Favorable**

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

Thank you for considering my testimony today. My name is Katherine, a resident of Baltimore, District 43. I am a member of the Sunrise Movement Baltimore, a movement led by young people fighting against the climate crisis. This testimony represents my support for HB0332, Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard-Eligible Sources (Removing Trash Incineration).

Trash incineration pollutes our communities and causes many health problems and costs, yet we continue to subsidize and pay for it as a source of renewable energy. This takes away from promoting clean, renewable energy projects like solar and wind that we truly need. Our taxpayer dollars should be going towards clean renewable energy not dirty energy.

According to Baltimore's Fair Development Plan for Zero Waste, Baltimore is among the highest rates of breathing related diseases of cities in the country and we Baltimore residents spend \$55 million annually on health costs related to burning trash. Maryland's trash incinerators emit higher levels of mercury, lead, and other air pollutants than Maryland's coal plants do. We should move Baltimore and Maryland away from incineration and toward reuse, recycling, and composting, which will bring 1,800 jobs within two years.<sup>1</sup>

Sunrise Movement is a movement to stop the climate crisis and create millions of green and good-paying jobs in the process. We fight against oppression and environmental racism. Incineration in Maryland does the opposite of that by polluting our frontline communities and exacerbating the climate crisis. We young people are worried about our futures and our environment and we urge you to put us at the forefront of your decision-making.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ilsr.org/report-baltimore-zero-waste/>



Please Remove Trash Incineration from the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard!

We encourage a FAVORABLE report for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

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