

Justin Gallardo, HB0332, Favorable  
February 4, 2021

**Testimony HB0332**  
**Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources**  
**Economic Matters**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I, Justin Gallardo of Parkville, support HB0332, “Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources.” I first got involved with the campaign to declassify waste-to-energy incineration when I was an intern with Food & Water Watch Maryland during my last semester as an undergraduate seeking a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science & Policy at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Since graduation, I have made new connection with Clean Water Action and various environmental groups, social justice groups, labor groups, and activists. Regardless of where we fall on the political spectrum, we can agree that in this case, government is the problem by subsidizing dirty energy and not allowing the market to create safe, clean, and sustainable jobs.

I applaud Chairman Davis for taking up the urgency to declassify black liquor, which was commended by Speaker Jones via Facebook on January 29, 2021. Speaker Jones acknowledges this flaw as a threat to climate change and declassifying it as a solution. I believe this logic can be expanded to waste-to-energy incineration as this classification is damaging to our climate and has an adverse effect on low-income residents and People of Color. For the first time in our state, we have the chance and opportunity to clean-up the RPS. In a time where we recognize how divide our society is from the global COVID-19 pandemic to the Black Lives Matter Protests to the failed coup of the US Capitol. We are rebuilding our economy and it should not include jobs that harm our environment and our health. Senator Chris West believes that environmental consideration and a prosperous economy are NOT mutually exclusive.

**Language:**

The Maryland Public Service Commission clearly states that Waste-to-energy is a Tier 1 source. These sources of energy are in a permanent category, unlike Tier 2 sources which are gradually phased out. This expect is directly from the website:

**What fuel sources are approved for the Maryland RPS Program?**

- Fuel sources are divided into two categories, Tier 1 and Tier 2. Tier 1 includes Solar, Wind, Qualifying Biomass, Methane from a landfill or wastewater treatment plant, Geothermal, Ocean, Fuel Cell that produces electricity from a Tier 1 source, Hydroelectric power plants of less than 30 MW capacity, Poultry litter-to-energy, Waste-

to-energy, and Refuse-derived fuel. Tier 2 includes hydroelectric power other than pump storage generation.

As a result of this language, Maryland jurisdictions like Harford County's Public Works can state Waste-to-energy is "Renewable Energy":

Home • Government • Departments • Public Works • Environmental Services • Residential Recycling and Trash Collection • Waste-To-Energy

## Waste-To-Energy

Most of the municipal solid waste from Harford County is converted into renewable energy at a facility known as the Harford Waste-to-Energy Facility (HWTEF).

### 2 Stage Process

In the facility, waste is combusted in a controlled 2-stage thermal oxidation process. The heat released is used to make steam from water and the steam is piped to the Edgewood Area of APG for use in heating and cooling buildings.

The steam generated currently provides about 50% of the steam needs of the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG). Without this steam, the Army would have to burn oil or gas.



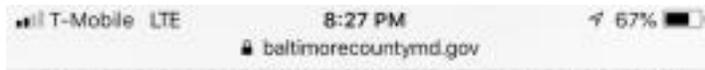
## **Greenwashing:**

Oxford Language defines Greenwash as, “disinformation disseminated by an organization so as to present an environmentally responsible public image.” We should not have to be reminded that these jobs and the mess they create adversely harm low-income residents and People of Color; however, the corporations we subsidize through our RPS, show these charming images to the public. The following photo is from Wheelabrator’s website (<https://www.wtienergy.com/>):



## Local Action:

In my home jurisdiction of Baltimore County, its Public Works' recognizes the consequences of producing too much waste. They recognize that the burden falls on the taxpayers. We cannot burn our way out of it. Other disciplines like composting and outright banning products are apart of that:



### Why is waste prevention important?



By practicing waste prevention, essentially using less stuff, you are protecting the environment by conserving natural resources, extending landfill life and saving energy. Waste prevention also saves taxpayers money because Baltimore County doesn't have to pay for collection, processing or disposal.

There are only a few options for handling solid waste, as shown in the solid waste management hierarchy diagram. Each of these options is ranked, with the most preferable option at the top. Waste prevention and reuse is the most preferred method for managing solid waste, followed by recycling. As indicated, landfilling and incineration without energy recovery are the least preferable options for handling solid waste.

