

Nevie Brooks Written Testimony
HB 332 – Favorable
House Economic Matters Committee
2/4/2021

Constituent – Maryland Legislative District 15
9804 Gable Ridge Ter, Apt D
Rockville, MD 20850

Testimony

I want to express support for removing trash as a source of renewable energy and therefore in FAVOR of House Bill 332. It is well known that the incineration of solid waste produces high pollution levels, and we are running out of time to preserve livability on this planet for not just our children and grandchildren, but for those of us who plan to still be alive in 2050, which I do.

I live in Montgomery County, and I am thrilled that the Dickerson trash incinerator will be replaced by solar facilities. I find it telling, though, that the largest facility of this kind in the state of Maryland is found in a predominantly Black neighborhood in Baltimore.

Studies from the Environmental Protection Agency have shown that trash incinerators have to release 28 times the amount of dioxin into the atmosphere to produce the same amount of energy as coal. Dioxin is one of the most toxic man-made chemicals known to science. They must also release more than twice as much carbon dioxide into the atmosphere as coal plants. Yet predominantly white Dickerson's trash incinerator is being replaced with *clean* and renewable solar energy production and the jobs that follow, but predominantly Black Westport neighborhood of Baltimore is home to the Wheelabrator Incinerator, the city's largest single source of air pollution, and as far as I'm aware, there are no plans for this neighborhood to see this incinerator replaced with clean, green, safe jobs.

I am speaking up as a white Montgomery County resident of the district that will see toxic pollution replaced by a clean energy source, to say it is unacceptable that we can collectively recognize the need to divest from trash incineration yet somehow not find the political will to exert more pressure on closing the facility down when it's in a Black neighborhood.

I thank you for considering my testimony and hope you will vote in FAVOR of House Bill 332 in order to remove trash as a source of "renewable" energy.