

**Testimony of Andrew Hinz for  
HB0875 - Electricity - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Qualifying Biomass**

Members of the Economic Matters Committee

Burning fuel to generate electricity is not “renewable.” That is fact, based on undisputed science.

Maryland ratepayers have been deceived into fostering renewable energy by paying extra on their energy bills each month, when that money is actually being used to support facilities that do not produce electricity renewably and in fact pollute the communities in which they operate.

It is a cynical deception that impedes efforts to mitigate climate change and encourages the pollution of communities who are, in almost all cases, facing multiple fossil-fuel or industrial agriculture facilities that are shortening the life expectancy of their community members and sickening children with asthma and more deadly diseases.

You should stop ALL of it right now.

In 2019 almost half of our Maryland ratepayer subsidies went to these non-renewable, polluting facilities. And more than half of that went to out-of-state papermill sludge burning.

I urge you, as a Maryland rate payer and taxpayer, to pass HB0875.

Further, please amend HB0875 to also remove non-renewable sources Trash Incineration (see below for personal impact) and Biomass Incineration (wood and wood waste – see [500+ experts call on world’s nations to not burn forests to make energy \(mongabay.com\)](#)) from our RPS.



And while you are correcting the RPS to align with science, public health recommendations, and sound fiscal management, please also remove Landfill Gas and Anaerobic Digesters, which are fueled by waste products that are not being sustainably managed ([Industrial Hog Farm Biogas Projects Ignore Community Impacts - The Energy Mix](#)).



### **Statement of Personal Impact from Trash Incineration in District 40:**

I live in Baltimore City, approximately 3.5 miles from the BRESCO 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 BRESCO 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.

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