



Bill: HB 332 - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources

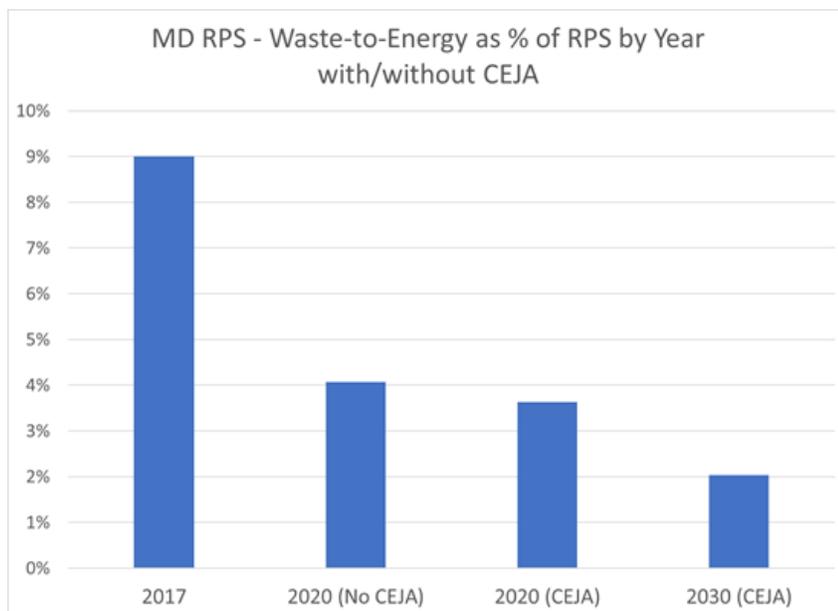
Position: FAVORABLE

Date: February 2nd, 2021

Mr. Chairman, Madame Vice Chair, and members of the Committee,

CCAN Action Fund writing in support of HB 332, Removal Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources, which removes trash incineration from Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio.

We would like to highlight that trash incineration is not at all necessary for reaching Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requirements, based on modeling that was done for the Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA) of 2019.



As noted in the Fiscal Note, trash incineration is taking up a smaller and smaller portion of the RPS, making up 11% in 2019 compared to 32% in 2012. Using data from the Public Service Commission's 2017 RPS report and the renewable projects applied for in the PJM queue, we can anticipate that under current statute, less than 4% of the RPS will have come from trash incineration by 2020 [1,2]

We can also project that solar and wind will significantly exceed the minimum carve outs set out in

CEJA, and will be more than able to compensate for the removal of trash incineration as these sectors, especially wind, grow. Additionally, in the time since these numbers were examined for CEJA modeling, more solar has entered the queue, meaning it will be even easier than projected.

Another important consideration is the smart investment of our state's money. With the passage of the CEJA, the solar energy industry did an about face in 2019, going from losing 808 jobs in 2018 [3] to gaining 339 in 2019 [4]. More growth is anticipated as the demand for truly clean energy rises and we recover from the pandemic. Meanwhile, by continuing to subsidise trash incineration, we only give money to already existing sources of energy - which are carbon intensive in the face of a climate crisis, and additionally cost our state millions in healthcare expenses and other economic burdens. In our

current economic environment, we can't afford to continue to throw ratepayer's money at this outmoded and notoriously dirty source of energy. We are severely undermining the intention of the Renewable Portfolio Standard to grow new sources of energy that will serve us in our new climate future.

We urge a favorable report on this bill.

Sincerely,

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[1]<https://www.psc.state.md.us/wp-content/uploads/FINAL-Renewable-Energy-Portfolio-Standard-Report-with-data-for-CY-2017.pdf>

[2]<https://www.pjm.com/planning/services-requests/interconnection-queues.aspx>

[3] <https://www.thesolarfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Solar-Jobs-Census-2018-1-1.pdf>

[4] <https://www.thesolarfoundation.org/national/>

