



PUBLIC EMPLOYEES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

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HB 0332 – Renewable Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources

Economic Matters

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PEER urges a favorable reading on HB 0332. This is both a climate and a consumer protection bill. Today, Maryland’s economy is under tremendous pressure from the pandemic, and many residents struggle to pay utility bills. Burning garbage is problematic from an environmental and financial standpoint.

The three incinerators subsidized by Maryland’s RPS program are the largest polluters in their counties, and the Virginia incinerator is one of the largest sources of air pollution in the Washington, DC area.

Using public information, we estimate that compliance costs to Maryland energy providers have been about \$56,000,000 for incineration credits since 2008. By 2030 these costs could easily be \$150,000,000. The costs passed on to ratepayers are likely much higher.

Removing incineration would allow the state to redirect spending to clean renewable sources and meet consumer expectations that the premium they pay for the RPS decreases pollution, rather than subsidize it.

Last week PEER published a report on dirty energy credits in Maryland’s RPS, which is attached here. This report shows how destructive all dirty energy credits are to Maryland clean energy programs and to ratepayers.

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