



**HoCoClimateAction.org**  
Howard County, Maryland

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB332, Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources**

**Hearing Date: February 4 2021**

**Bill Sponsor: Delegate Ivey**

**Committee: Economic Matters**

**Submitting: Howard County Climate Action**

**Position: Favorable**

[HoCo Climate Action](#) -- a [350.org](#) local chapter and a grassroots organization representing more than 1,450 subscribers, and a member of the Howard County Climate Collaboration -- supports HB 332.

We strongly urge you to support the proposed bill to remove incineration from the Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) for three reasons: 1) burning trash is displacing clean energy in the RPS; 2) burning trash is not clean; and 3) burning trash is not healthy.

The Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility released a report Jan. 27, 2021, titled: "It's Time to Clean up Maryland's Clean Energy Program: Dirty 'Renewables' Cost Maryland Money and Jobs" [here](#). This report says: "According to the [Energy Justice Network](#), the Wheelabrator facility in Baltimore is the city's largest air polluter." The Dickerson incinerator in Montgomery County is similarly polluting, resulting in asthma, heart disease and more. Residents in Baltimore, Montgomery County and throughout our state should not be required to subsidize this pollution through the Renewable Portfolio Standards.

As climate activists, these reports are not new for us. We have supported efforts to remove dirty elements such as incineration from the RPS for years. And every year, the climate crisis worsens. As lawmakers will remember, efforts to remove these subsidies failed at the last minute when the landmark Clean Energy Jobs Act in 2019 passed. It is beyond time for legislators, despite pressure from polluting industries, to take a stand for public health and to address the climate crisis. Marylanders can not provide incentives for dirty energy and expect to encourage the clean energy we need to meet our state's climate goals. Allowing incineration in the Renewable Portfolio Standards undermines Maryland's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act because dirty energy counts toward clean energy requirements.

For these reasons, we urge you to support HB0332 and remove incineration from the Renewable Portfolio Standards.

HoCo Climate Action

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Submitted by Ruth White, Steering and Advocacy Committee,

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