

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

As a resident of Baltimore City and *a representative of the Free Your Voice*, I am writing to express my strong support of HB11, which will make sure that our subsidies for renewable energy through the Renewable Portfolio Standard are going toward actual renewable energy. We are in a climate crisis, and we cannot afford to be spending our renewable energy money on facilities that emit greenhouse gasses - now is the time to double down Maryland's commitment to truly renewable energy and subsidize only facilities that are emissions-free.

Burning trash, chicken litter, and wood waste and manufacturing methane all pollute the environment, harm nearby communities' health, and contribute to climate change: a bad investment of public dollars that every Maryland utility ratepayer contributes to. Every Renewable Energy Credit that goes toward a facility that emits greenhouse gasses is a Renewable Energy Credit taken away from a facility that does not - an egregious waste of public money.

Because of the inclusion of these polluters in the Renewable Portfolio Standard, Maryland ratepayers paid over \$30 million to buy Renewable Energy Credits from facilities that emit greenhouse gasses in 2020, and over \$246 million since 2008. The Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility estimates that if nothing changes, those costs will mount to half a billion dollars subsidizing polluters by 2030. Please support HB11 so that those dollars can go toward supporting wind, solar, hydro, and geothermal power - not greenhouse gas emissions.

Here in Baltimore, we suffer the consequences of a wasteful state renewable energy policy that has more to do with increasing corporate profits than with science, people's health, or our environment. Burning trash that is filled with fossil fuel based plastics is as far from renewable energy as you can get and yet Maryland officials continue to choose to give away millions of our public subsidy dollars that are needed to fund community and worker led solutions to come back from a global pandemic. A new compost and resource recovery park in Baltimore could divert the hundreds of tons of food scraps and other materials that the city's worst air polluter, the BRESKO incinerator, burns every day and that are dumped in the state's second worst methane emitter, the Quarantine Road Landfill. Composting, recycling and re-use businesses create 10-20 times more jobs than incineration and landfilling. Now is the time to align our public resources with our values and with the needs of our communities, workers and our planet.

So we are calling on our STATE to STEP UP and do the right thing and vote YES on Bill HB11. A YES, for this bill is a yes to our rights to breathe clean air, and to live in a community that is healthy and safe. We need to clean up Maryland RPS and really start funding real renewable energy solutions.

Best,

Free Your Voice
Shashawnda Campbell