

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

As a resident of 10th district and *I am a youth that is concerned about climate change for XYZ reason] / [etc]*, 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.

Bresco costs 55million dollars a year in health damage. Did you also know that incinerators are almost always put in communities of color and low income causing health damages. BRESKO is the #1 air polluter in Baltimore City taking away residents' human right to clean air. BRESKO trash burning incinerator has been around for over 30 years and they shouldn't have been given that much time to pollute our communities. This incinerator also burns waste from Baltimore county and other places as well but, we all need to be working towards the alternatives-- which is Zero Waste. Community residents have been fighting for Zero Waste for many years because we want a way to deal with our waste that doesn't cost our lives. Zero Waste creates many jobs, clean air, and cleaner communities. So, take polluters out of the RPS and stop branding them as renewable energy because they are NOT.

Best,
Taysia Thomas