



**Committee: Economic Matters**

**Testimony on: HB11: Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2022**

**Organization: MLC Climate Justice Wing**

**Submitting: Diana Younts, Co-Chair**

**Position: Favorable**

**Hearing Date: March 4, 2022**

Dear M. Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of HB11. The MLC Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of over 50 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably for this bill.

HB11 takes Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standards back to its original purpose: to incentivize the production of clean, renewable energy. It does so by removing all the dirty sources of energy from the RPS, and leaves only: solar, wind, geothermal, and small hydro.

According to a [Report](#) recently released by PEER (Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility), Maryland taxpayers have paid more than \$189 million to subsidize dirty energy facilities in Virginia and Maryland since 2008, and the Report further projects Marylanders will spend \$311 million more for such dirty energy between now until 2030, and much of it does not even provide energy to Maryland or jobs for Marylanders.

For instance, According to the Report as reported by an article in [Maryland Matters](#), we Marylanders spent more than \$26 million since 2014 purchasing energy credits from a facility in Virginia that burns wood waste to produce energy for Virginia.

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.

Instead, would it not be better to spend that money investing in programs that address climate change?

For these reasons and more, we urge a FAVORABLE report for HB11.