



Testimony Supporting HB11
House Economic Matters Committee
March 4, 2022

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to ask you to support HB 11, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2022.

As you know, Maryland created a Renewable Portfolio Standard program in 2004 to subsidize new renewable energy development, with money from our utility bills. However, the program now includes a surprising and disappointing variety of dirty energy sources.

Burning chicken litter for energy was placed in the top-tier, most-subsidized “renewable energy” category in 2008, a boon to factory farms on the Eastern Shore and a danger for the communities who will live nearby. Trash incineration was moved to the same “renewable energy” category in 2011, a giveaway to proposed incinerators facing staunch community opposition in Frederick and in Baltimore. Burning wood products counts as renewable, and the industry has been pushing this year to add even more forestry products to the program — despite the significant greenhouse gas emissions and public health harm that such facilities produce. So does using food waste, manure, and other organic materials to produce methane, a more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.

Many of these facilities existed before the RPS was created, meaning those dollars aren’t being used to produce new renewable energy — and none of them should be taking money that should be going to wind, solar, hydro, and thermal power.

Our members live in Frederick County and were therefore subject to an attempt to build an incinerator in our County, next to the scenic Monocacy River, a battle our residents fought for 8 years and won. For us, knowing the effects and outcomes of incineration, we are very much opposed to subsidizing that industry or any other dirty industry.

Please protect our money and our climate, and make sure that the RPS is supporting emissions-free, truly renewable energy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patrice Gallagher
Vice Chair

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