

3/2/2022

Testimony Supporting HB11- House Economic Matters Committee
Stephanie Compton
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Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

As a resident of District 43 and Maryland Ratepayer, 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, i.e. wind and solar.

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 \$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.

Subsidizing dirty energy is a bad deal for Maryland.

- In 2020, about 25% of Maryland's Renewable Energy Credits came from polluting energy sources that are still a part of the RPS, such as municipal solid waste burned to produce electricity and woody biomass or debris burned in power plants and paper mills. An additional 11% of Renewable Energy Credits went to black liquor, which the General Assembly deleted from the RPS in 2021 - now it's time to finish the job.
- Maryland RPS program spends millions of dollars on a Virginia biomass facility that is too dirty to qualify for Virginia's own recently-enacted RPS.
- Maryland allows credits for burning "biomass gas" from DC's Blue Plains

wastewater treatment plant, which makes fertilizer from sewage sludge with extremely high levels of toxic per- and polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) that is sold to the public for a profit.

For all of these reasons and many more, please support HB11 and end “renewable energy” subsidies for dirty, polluting, greenhouse gas emitting energy sources in Maryland. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Compton