

Maryland-Delaware Solid Waste Association

a chapter of the

**National
Waste & Recycling
AssociationSM**

Collect. Recycle. Innovate.

TO: The Honorable C. T. Wilson, Chair
Members, House Economic Matters Committee
The Honorable Vaughn Stewart

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: March 4, 2022

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Bill 11 – *Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Tier 1 Renewable Source – Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2022)*

The Maryland Delaware Solid Waste Association (MDSWA), a chapter of the National Waste and Recycling Association, is a trade association representing the private solid waste industry in the State of Maryland. Its membership includes hauling and collection companies, processing and recycling facilities, transfer stations, and disposal facilities. MDSWA and its members **oppose** House Bill 11.

House Bill 11 proposes to exclude from the definition of “Tier 1 renewable energy source” energy derived from qualifying biomass, methane from anaerobic digestion, certain fuel cells, poultry litter – to -energy, waste-to-energy, energy from a thermal biomass system. MDSWA does not support the removal from Tier 1 of any of the sources proposed for exclusion by this legislation. However, it specifically wishes to register its opposition to the removal of methane from the anaerobic decomposition of organic materials in a landfill or wastewater treatment plant and waste-to-energy.

Landfills are an essential component of the management of the State’s waste stream. MDSWA strongly supports the reduction, reuse and recycling of waste and is actively involved in efforts to enhance Maryland’s recycling and waste recovery infrastructure. However, there will always be a need to landfill some portion of the waste stream. Methane recovery and conversion to an energy source is critical to the State’s efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and has proven to be a reliable and cost-effective source of renewable energy. It should not be removed from Tier 1. Similarly, waste-to-energy is not only a renewable source of energy, it is regarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a reliable and responsible method of waste disposal, and is subject to stringent state and federal air, water, and solid waste regulations. As the Association representing the entire private solid waste industry, we are deeply concerned about how this bill will affect the landfills and waste-to-energy facilities in the State of Maryland and the jurisdictions that rely on them for management of their solid waste.

Removing methane recover from landfills and waste-to-energy would be a step backward from the goal of increasing the availability of renewable energy in Maryland and would negatively impact the solid waste infrastructure of the State. As such, an unfavorable report is requested.

For more information call:

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