

Written testimony FAVORABLE HB11

Reclaim the Renewable Portfolio Standard

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I know that if our economy and energy sector doesn't reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GGH) quickly, our climate and world will be pushed into new unpredictable weather patterns due to climate change.

I know that when Maryland created a Renewable Portfolio Standard the intention was that the definition of "renewable" was emission-free electricity and energy. Or, it should have been.

An effective RPS strategy controls greenhouse gas emissions output. Renewable meant natural occurring energies (wind, solar and hydro and wave) that when used a fuel source for electricity, do not generate climate-changing GGH into our climate.

Inauthentically redefining renewable for the input, as Maryland has for the last 15 years, as anything that is a naturally reoccurring fuel is altering the RPS strategy for purposes of sending unbundled renewable energy certificate subsidies to for-profit businesses. This current "renewable" definition logic means that MD could use crematorium refuse as fuel. Calling wood, chicken manure, food scraps, and trash renewable fuels is not what was intended. These businesses and ultimately us, should pay their market value refuse costs, not legally be allowed to make them external costs on our climate.

Maryland won't hit our climate goals with emission-free electricity by our arbitrary dates. Our PJM grid has not developed emission-free electricity fast enough. In 2020, the PJM grid was only 6.04% renewable energy after the hundreds of millions spent on paper ,unbundled renewable energy certificates purchased by many states, retailers, and utilities.

Using trash, chicken manure, biomass and wood as fuel sources, then sending our rate payer money to subsidize these polluting generators is inauthentic, is manipulating the RPS and ultimately will mean that our kids' parents said we were 50%, 60%, 72% clean energy, when MD was not.

It's time to reclaim the RPS and be truthful about how we reduce GGH **by passing HB11, then asking the Senate to do the same.**