

Testimony Supporting HB11

House Economic Matters Committee

March 4, 2022

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

As a resident of District 42/42A and a Maryland ratepayer, I write to express my strong support for HB11. This legislation will guarantee that Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) subsidies go toward truly renewable energy. We are in a climate emergency and we cannot afford to spend renewable energy funds on facilities or processes that emit greenhouse gases. We must support and strengthen Maryland's commitment to truly renewable energy and subsidize only facilities that are emissions-free.

Burning trash, chicken litter, and wood waste and manufacturing methane all pollute the environment, harm nearby communities' health, and contribute to climate change. Subsidizing them is a bad investment of public dollars and a betrayal of Maryland utility ratepayers. Every Renewable Energy Credit (REC) that goes toward a greenhouse gas emitting facility is a REC taken away from a facility that does not pollute.

The inclusion of these polluters in the RPS means that in 2020 Maryland ratepayers paid over \$30 million to buy RECs from facilities that emit greenhouse gasses in 2020, and 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.

There is no way that subsidizing dirty energy makes sense for **Maryland** residents.

- **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.
- **Most RPS** facilities are located **outside** of Maryland and provide no energy to Maryland energy suppliers.

Dirty energy subsidies burdens ratepayer with higher bills and contribute to multiple adverse health impacts. I was diagnosed with emphysema five years ago. I am sure that living within a mile and a half of the Bresco Incinerator for four years was a major cause of my condition.

Please support HB11 so that those dollars can go toward supporting wind, solar, hydro, and geothermal power - not greenhouse gas emissions. For all of these reasons and many more, please support HB11 and end "renewable energy" subsidies for greenhouse gas emitting energy sources in Maryland. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sharon Davlin
District 42/42A