



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich  
County Executive

March 4, 2022

TO: The Honorable C.T. Wilson  
Chair, Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich  
County Executive

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

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I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 11, *Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Tier 1 Renewable Source – Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2022)*. The Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) was set to encourage the development of clean, renewable sources of electricity generation, primarily solar and wind. States created renewable standards to incentivize energy resources to include cleaner sources of generation, promote domestic energy production, and encourage economic development. The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act refocuses Maryland's RPS on those truly clean, and renewable sources of electricity while removing greenhouse gas producing sources such as burning manure, waste-to-energy disposal, and food waste. This change will ensure investment dollars are used for clean renewable energy sources.

Waste-to-energy disposal is particularly misaligned with the goal of the RPS. The primary function of waste-to-energy is a solid waste management method that happens to generate electricity as a by-product. Including waste to-energy as a Tier I resource under Maryland's RPS could displace the development of new renewable sources of power like solar and wind.

By removing waste-to-energy facilities as a clean energy source, Montgomery County recognizes a short-term financial impact to the loss of sales of renewable energy credits. Just last year the County received \$3.4 million for the sale of Renewable Energy Credits from its Resource Recovery Facility. However, the long-term value to the corrected RPS to promote more solar and wind generation in the state will help achieve Montgomery County's climate goals. Additionally, the update to the RPS is consistent with Montgomery County achieving its zero waste goals.

I respectfully request that the Economic Matters Committee vote favorable on the bill.

cc: Members of the Economic Matters Committee