

Testimony Supporting HB11
House Economic Matters Committee
March 4, 2022

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

As a resident of district 10 and a representative of Free Your Voice and a youth concerned about climate change for having faced these challenges face on, 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.

Burning trash, chicken litter, wood waste, and food 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 \$30 million to buy Renewable Energy Credits 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. Please support HB11 so that those dollars can go toward supporting wind, solar, hydro, and geothermal power - not greenhouse gas emissions.

Growing up, I was the only one in my family who developed asthma, it didn't run in the family and no one in my family had it before. To this day I still have times where breathing or catching my breath will become difficult. I live in the lakeland community, I also work, and go to school in Curtis bay. The Wheelabrator Bresco waste Incinerator isn't too far from that, so I constantly have to breathe in all that toxic pollution. I'm one of thousands of people that live around this incinerator, some living closer than others.

I've been working alongside other residents and youth as a youth that is concerned with that state of communities and our planet. So, I and many other youth have been working to move Baltimore from burning and burying and put a stop to incineration. We went to thousands of residents in Baltimore and have done countless hours of phone banking, emails and outreach educating residents to the truth of our failed waste system. Throughout our outreach, we realized everyone in the community had something in common, everyone had or either knew someone who had asthma, lung cancer, or other respiratory health problems that lived in the community where the BRESKO incinerator is located. It's time to invest into our people and ensure the safety of residents.

Sincerely,
Carlos Sanchez

