



HoCoClimateAction.org
Howard County, Maryland

Testimony on SB0903
SB903 - RPS-Qualifying Biomass & Thermal Biomass

Hearing Date: March 1, 2022

Bill Sponsor: Senators Hershey and Edwards

Committee: Finance

Submitting: Liz Feighner for Howard County Climate Action

Position: Unfavorable

[HoCo Climate Action](#) – is a [350.org](#) local chapter and a grassroots organization representing more than 1,450 subscribers, and a member of [the Climate Justice Wing](#) of the [Maryland Legislative Coalition](#). HoCoClimateAction **opposes** [SB903](#) - RPS-Qualifying Biomass & Thermal Biomass

The IPCC challenges the world to reduce greenhouse emissions rapidly to avoid even more catastrophic effects of the climate crisis. An IPCC report released on Tuesday, Feb 28 confirms how little time we have to act. [New York Times](#) reports: Current efforts are too often “incremental.” Instead we will need “**‘transformational’ changes that involve rethinking how people** build homes, grow food, **produce energy** and protect nature.”

This bill would drastically move Maryland’s Renewable Portfolio Standard in the wrong direction, allowing more greenhouse-gas-emitting facilities to soak up Maryland’s renewable energy money just when we need to be adding emissions-free technologies to face the climate crisis. SB903 seeks to expand the scope of qualifying biomass to include “all raw products” produced from a forest – including whole trees – and could vastly accelerate the deforestation of Maryland.

The Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Working Group of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change is forming a sub-group to conduct a study on woody biomass energy sources’ true greenhouse gas impacts. Passing this legislation now before that process is completed would be especially ill advised.

For all the reasons stated above, Howard County Climate Action urges an **unfavorable** vote from the committee.

HoCo Climate Action

Submitted by Liz Feighner & Ruth White, Howard County, MD

Steering and Advocacy Committee

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