

Dear Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

This testimony is being submitted by Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore, a group of individuals working to move white folks as part of a multi-racial movement for equity and racial justice in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Howard County. We are also working in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition (BTEC). I am a resident of Maryland District 40. **I am testifying in support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024, HB166.**



Showing Up for Racial Justice

Maryland needs to take action on climate change, and needs to find ways to do so this year that do not cost any money out of the state budget. As Senate President Ferguson recently said “this is a year about prioritizing the resources that we have.” Over three years, the total subsidies to trash incinerators (including out-of-state companies) through Maryland’s RPS ballooned from \$11.5 million in 2020 to \$24.7 million in 2022, while a new 2023 study in PLOS Climate found that “incinerators emit more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity produced than any other power source” - including coal plants. That makes this subsidy doubly bad policy for Marylanders and our goals and a perfect target for cuts. This bill does just that by excluding incineration of waste and refuse-derived fuel from the “tier1 renewable source” category of the state’s renewable energy portfolio.

The state isn’t the only stakeholder being forced to pay subsidies to polluting fuel sources under the guise of renewable energy: so are state taxpayers. The RPS subsidy is paid by electric utilities, and ultimately comes out of our utility bills. We deserve to know that when we’re paying for renewable energy, we’re actually helping support the renewable energy we need to fight climate change and clean our air.

Finally, the subject matter experts in the state’s own Department of the Environment and Commission on Climate Change both recently published reports supporting this action.

This is common sense! Please correct this error which grants subsidies to trash incineration operations as they spew greenhouse gases and harmful particulate matter -- often within close proximity to lower income, disenfranchised, black and brown neighborhoods.

It is for these reasons that I am encouraging you to vote **in support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024, HB166.**

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Christina L. Bell (formerly Nemphos)
1301 W. 42nd Street, Baltimore, Md 21211
Showing Up for Racial Justice Baltimore