



PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND

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Testimony on Maryland House Bill 166 Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

TO: Chair C.T. Wilson, Vice Chair Brian M. Crosby, and members of the committee

FROM: SirJames Weaver

DATE: March 7, 2024

POSITION: Favorable

My name is SirJames Weaver, and I am a district 46 resident of Baltimore city. It's past time to pass the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024, which would remove trash incineration from the Maryland Portfolio Standard Program.

Through my work as Progressive Maryland's Environmental Justice Organizer, I frequent Cherry Hill in South Baltimore, and whenever I am in the area I notice I struggle to breath. In addition, almost one-hundred percent of the people that I've had conversations with, in the community, were not aware that their monthly utility bill was being used to maintain the yearly wealth of the toxic trash incinerator in Baltimore. Burning trash is not a renewable energy, as trash incineration emits more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity released greater than any other power source¹

Our dollars should go towards real renewable energy such as solar, wind and geothermal energy, which would reduce our state's carbon footprint and put Maryland on a more prudent trajectory to become a national leader in the fight against climate change. We only have a few more years before the effects of climate change are irreversible: So I strongly advise members of this committee to pass the RREA now!

Sincerely,

SirJames

¹ <https://journals.plos.org/climate/article?id=10.1371/journal.pclm.0000100>