

Testimony in Support of HB166 – Reclaim Renewable Energy Act

March 7, 2024

To: Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the Economic Matters Committee

As a resident of Prince George's County, I am writing to express my strong support for HB166, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

I am a community volunteer very active in numerous efforts on behalf of Maryland's environmental and ecological issues. As such, I recognize the great importance that renewable energy has in addressing climate change and maintaining good stewardship of our state's natural resources.

To seriously take on the climate change challenges, Maryland needs to give priority funding to renewable energy development. The Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), established by the legislature in 2004, is a crucial tool for supporting clean, renewable energy development and for reducing emissions from the electricity sector, and it's important to ensure that funding is being used well.

Currently under the RPS, Maryland is wasting funds on trash incineration, including a significant amount outside of the state. Trash incineration is neither clean nor renewable energy, and it is contradictory to the purpose of the RPS.

Given the current budget challenges that confront the state, eliminating trash incineration from the RPS is a budget-neutral way to direct more funding to renewable energy. Passing the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act will not utilize any additional state budget funding, and will prioritize more wise use of the existing funding.

This action also is supported in the recently released Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, developed by the Maryland Department of Energy (MDE), and in the Maryland Commission on Climate Change's 2023 Annual Report.

Burning trash is totally contradictory to the concept of clean energy. The state should end its support for it through the Renewable Portfolio Standard.

Please give a favorable report on HB166. Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

Tom Taylor
11-G Laurel Hill Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-513-9524

