



**CLIMATE COALITION**  
**Montgomery County, MD**

**Testimony for HB166: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)**

Committee: Economic Matters  
Testimony by: Climate Coalition Montgomery County  
Position: Favorable  
Date: March 7, 2024

Dear Chair Wilson and Members of the Committee,

**The Climate Coalition Montgomery County (CC-MoCo) strongly supports HB166 - The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024.**

The undersigned organizational members of the Climate Coalition of Montgomery County urge you to pass the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (HB166). We are advocates of actions aimed at meeting the goals of Montgomery County's Climate Emergency Resolution, adopted in 2017, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2027 and 100% by 2035. Maryland is facing a climate crisis and we strongly support SB146 as a budget-neutral bill with real results for climate and clean renewable energy, so we urge you to vote favorably on HB166.

The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act would remove trash incineration from being included with clean energy sources like solar and wind in the state's renewable energy portfolio standard. We support this change because:

- **Subsidizing trash incineration with Maryland ratepayer money harms Maryland electricity ratepayers.** Renewable energy subsidies should support clean renewable energy sources that help us decarbonize and meet our climate pollution reduction targets. This bill presents an opportunity to improve our climate outcomes without spending new state money - it only calls for reprioritizing how our clean energy subsidies are spent. Marylanders deserve to know that when we're paying for renewable energy, we're actually helping support decarbonized sources of renewable energy that we need to fight climate change and clean our air.
- **Removing trash incineration eligibility from Maryland's renewable portfolio standard (RPS) aligns with our state climate goals and plans.** Maryland's [Climate Pollution Reduction Plan](#), published in December 2023 after receiving input from

thousands of Marylanders, and the Maryland Commission on Climate Change's [2023 Annual Report](#) both recommend removing trash incineration from the state's RPS.

- **Trash incinerators do not need these subsidies.** Maryland's incineration renewable energy credits go to facilities that existed before the renewable portfolio standard was created. Statewide ratepayer support should be used for real new, clean, renewable energy that will fight climate change, decarbonize our grid, and help clean our air.
- **Subsidies for trash incineration have led to millions of dollars in Maryland ratepayer money flowing out of Marylander's pockets to a Covanta trash incinerator in Virginia.** The BRESKO incinerator in Baltimore received \$4.2 million; the Montgomery County incinerator in Dickerson received \$8.7 million, and the windfall received by the Covanta incinerator in Lorton, VA dwarfs those amounts at \$11.7 million. This money is better spent to help us meet our clean energy goals in state.

Now is the time to act on Maryland's commitment to zero-emissions energy sources by shifting Maryland's ratepayer renewable energy subsidies to facilities that are emissions-free. The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024 accomplishes this by removing climate-polluting waste incineration from Maryland's RPS. We respectfully request your support for HB166.

Sincerely,

Karl Held, on behalf of the Climate Coalition Montgomery County

**Climate Coalition Montgomery County – Organizational Signatories**

350 Montgomery County

ACQ Climate

Bethesda Green

Biodiversity for a Livable Climate

Chesapeake Climate Action Network. (CCAN)

Ecosystems Study Group

Elders Climate Action Maryland

Environmental Justice Ministry Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

Friends of Sligo Creek (FoSC)

Green Sanctuary Committee, Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring

Montgomery Countryside Alliance

Montgomery County-Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (MCFACS)

One Montgomery Green

Poolesville Green

Safe Healthy Playing Fields Inc

Sugarloaf Citizens' Association

Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee (TPMEC)

The Climate Mobilization, Montgomery County MD

Transit Alternatives to Mid-County Highway Extended/M-83 (TAME)

Zero Waste Montgomery County