



# 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:** Josie Pines

**DATE:** March 1, 2024

**POSITION:** Favorable

Dear Chair Wilson and Members of the Committee,

As a resident of Anne Arundel County, a *representative of Progressive Maryland*, and a resident concerned about climate change as an existential threat, I am writing to express my strong support of HB166, the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act.

I am writing to urge your support for the passage of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (RREA) to address the pressing issue of air pollution and environmental justice in our community and across Maryland.

For nearly four decades, the BRESKO incinerator company has emitted harmful toxins, contributing to poor air quality and adverse health effects, particularly around overburdened communities in South Baltimore. This incinerator not only harms our health but also imposes a financial burden on Maryland utility ratepayers, costing us over \$11 million in subsidies since 2019.

As a Marylander and former resident of South Baltimore, I am deeply concerned about the health and well-being of our community. We cannot continue to tolerate the harmful impacts of the BRESKO incinerator on our air quality and public health. It is imperative that you take decisive action to shut down the incinerator and transition to cleaner, more sustainable energy sources outlined in the RREA.

I urge you to champion the passage of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act to protect the health of our communities, mitigate climate change, and pave the way for a cleaner, more sustainable future for Maryland.

Sincerely,

*Josie Pines*

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