

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 working in collaboration with the Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition (BTEC). I am a resident of District 8. **I am testifying in support of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024, HB166.**



**Showing Up for Racial Justice**

Our state must take action on climate change. A 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. However, 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. This subsidy is using valuable state resources on a heavily polluting industry. This bill will exclude incineration of waste and refuse-derived fuel from the “tier 1 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 Maryland 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.

It is worth noting that the subject matter experts in the state’s Department of the Environment and Commission on Climate Change both recently published reports supporting this action.

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,

Arielle Juberg  
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