

**60 organizations call for passage  
of the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act in 2024**

March 27, 2024

Governor Moore, Speaker Jones, and Senate President Ferguson,

The undersigned **60 organizations** call on you to champion climate action and environmental justice by passing the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act (HB166/SB146) in 2024. Communities can't afford to wait.

The Reclaim Renewable Energy Act is ready to pass right now. This is the 7th year in a row that it has been introduced. It is well-vetted, well-understood, and has broad support throughout the state: leaders in the legislature, leaders in local governments that use incinerators, the Governor's own Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, the Maryland Climate Commission, and the leaders of communities facing trash incineration on the front lines. All acknowledge: burning trash is not clean, renewable energy, and eliminating trash incineration from Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard is the right thing to do.

Passing the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act will make significant new investments available for real renewable energy with zero cost to Maryland's budget. In each year the General Assembly fails to pass the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act, the state forces Maryland electricity ratepayers to waste tens of millions of dollars subsidizing multinational corporations that own trash incinerators in our region instead of supporting renewable energy. Stalling on this bill would be fiscally irresponsible. Maryland cannot afford another year of purposeless delay.

Passing the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act is urgent this year. We look forward to future years when you lead on future improvements to the Renewable Portfolio Standard and transition Maryland toward 100% clean energy. But eliminating trash incineration from the RPS does not need and cannot wait for a comprehensive RPS review, and must be completed now before advancing a 100% clean energy policy.

Five years ago, the Clean Energy Jobs Act of 2019 was introduced: increasing Maryland's RPS mandate to 50% renewable energy by 2030 and eliminating trash incineration from the RPS in the same package. The legislature advanced the 50% mandate but left trash incineration in the RPS, leaving frontline communities behind and allowing the money wasted on trash incineration to mount even further. Maryland cannot risk proposing legislation to fix trash incineration's "renewable energy" status and to develop a 100% clean, renewable energy mandate at the same time. That would risk a repeat of 2019, if trash incineration were to ultimately retain its "renewable energy" status when the clean, renewable energy mandate increases again.

**Maryland must eliminate trash incineration from the RPS now, in 2024, before advancing legislation for 100% clean, renewable energy.**

Passing the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act in 2024 is within your power. Leaving it behind for another year would be a failure on environmental justice, a failure on climate action, and a failure to represent your constituents who are clamoring for change now. This is the year to

finally schedule the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act for a vote, pass the bill, and make hundreds of millions of dollars of additional investments available to support renewable energy at no cost to the state budget. You have the opportunity to be celebrated this year as leaders who finally solved a glaring environmental injustice. We urge you to endorse and pass the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act in 2024.

Sincerely,

Mid-Atlantic Justice Coalition  
South Baltimore Community Land Trust  
Clean Water Action  
Food and Water Watch  
#CoalFreeCurtisBay  
Beyond Extreme Energy  
CASA  
Climate Communications Coalition  
Concerned Citizens Against Industrial  
    CAFOS (CCAIC)  
HoCo Climate Action  
Maryland Energy Advocates Coalition  
Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate  
    Justice Wing  
Potomac Riverkeeper Network  
Progressive Maryland  
Public Employees for Environmental  
    Responsibility  
Sentinels of Eastern Shore Health  
Friends of the Earth  
Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home  
Environmental Justice Ministry, Cedar Lane  
    Unitarian Universalist Church  
Baltimore Community ToolBank  
Third Act Maryland  
Green Sanctuary Committee of the  
    Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver  
    Spring  
Biodiversity for a Livable Climate  
Climate Law & Policy Project  
Fellowship Of Scientists and Engineers  
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of  
    Maryland  
Sustainable Hyattsville  
Mountain Maryland Movement (Frostburg)

League of Women Voters of Maryland  
Maryland League of Conservation Voters  
Chesapeake Climate Action Network  
Sierra Club Maryland Chapter  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
Indivisible HoCoMD  
ACQ Climate  
Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group  
Centro de Apoyo Familiar  
Envision Frederick County, Inc.  
Maryland Ornithological Society  
Echotopia LLC  
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist  
    Environmental Justice Ministry  
Maryland PIRG  
Environment Maryland  
Sugarloaf Alliance  
350.org  
Zero Waste Montgomery County  
Baltimore Transit Equity Coalition  
Sugarloaf Citizens Association  
Langley Park Civic Association, Inc.  
Milagros de Jesucristo inc  
Baltimore Green Space  
Climate XChange Maryland  
Blue Water Baltimore  
Charm City Land Trusts  
Annapolis Green  
Namati US Environmental Justice Program  
Balt Wash Conference of the UMC Creation  
    Care Advocacy and Action  
Emmanuel UMC Green Team, Laurel  
Elders Climate Action Maryland  
Climate Reality Greater Maryland