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Re: Senate Bill 33, Renewable Portfolio Standards

Cost seems to be a hang-up with this bill, though it should not be. Currently Bloom and onshore wind are pricey elements of our Delmarva electric bills. By the time the requirements of this bill phase in, however, Bloom and our current onshore wind contracts will both be history. Not only will Bloom no longer be in the mix, but wind prices have plummeted even now, and a new wind contract will, without doubt, be far cheaper.

Of course, not to be disregarded, is the fact that we face the existential threat of climate change. Delaware is the First State, and it ought to be at least among the leaders in the move to mitigate the causes of climate change. While we sit among ourselves debating whether we can afford renewable energy, the ocean is lapping at our shores. Some farms near the shore are building berms to keep out the salty sea water. Driving through natural areas not far from the shore you can see rows of dead trees, snags, killed by sea water. Since 1937 Broadkill Beach has eroded 400 feet. Farmer Frank Webb, of Kent County, shows in a DNREC video the damage salt water incursion has done to his corn crop. Southbridge, a low-lying community in Wilmington, routinely experiences flooding.

The League of Women Voters of Delaware supports this bill, with the hope that it will ultimately increase renewables to at least 50% of the whole.

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