

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

AFFILIATED WITH:

CHOICE Building Trades Council — AFL-CIO

Baltimore Port Council

Baltimore Metro Council — AFL-CIO

Central MD Labor Council — AFL-CIO

Del-Mar-Va Labor Council — AFL-CIO

Maryland State - D.C. — AFL-CIO

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Testimony of

Peter Demchuk, Business Manager, IBEW, LOCAL 24

Before the

Economic Matters Committee

On

HB-1545— Electric Generation - Transition From Fossil Fuels –
Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account

Strongly Oppose

March 4, 2020

Chairman Davis and Committee Members,

For the record, my name is Peter Demchuk. I am a lifelong resident of Maryland currently residing in District 7 of Baltimore County. I am a 39 year member, and Business Manager, of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 24 located in Baltimore. I represent approximately 2000 hardworking, Maryland tax paying electricians. I started as an apprentice in 1979 and have held numerous positions over the years. The reason I give my background is to show my commitment to not only my profession but to all working men and women in Maryland.

HB-1545 is NOT good for my members and other building tradespersons because it would eliminate many construction jobs that we preform maintaining these facilities. I don't see anywhere in the Fossil Fuel Community Transition Account that will address the loss of income to my members. Yes we need to find cleaner ways to generate electricity but the timeline that this bill calls for the elimination of fossil fuel fired powerhouse may be TOO aggressive.

There is no plan cited for the replacement energy source. The average home in the U.S. uses 10,399 KWh annually or 867 kwh per month. MD ranks 20th with 12,372 KWh annually and 1031 KWh per month with 2 out of 5 homes using electricity for their main source of heat. The Public Service Commission has delayed a decision on the MD Offshore Wind turbines by six months.

The transition funding cited in the bill is capped at certain limits without any data to support that these finite amounts are sufficient to support the transition of these workers. Especially on the retirement of older workers without subsequent funding to maintain and replenish their defined pension benefits.

Please give HB-1545 an unfavorable report.

Thank you,



Peter P. Demchuk

PPD:CLR
AFL-CIO
OPEIU # 2