



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

GEORGE C. HOGAN: Business Manager • THOMAS C. MYERS: President • RICHARD D. WILKINSON: Vice President
JOSEPH F. DABBS: Financial Secretary • RICHARD G. MURPHY: Recording Secretary • PAULO C. HENRIQUES: Treasurer



March 4, 2020

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 1545
ELECTRICAL GENERATION/TRANSITION ACCOUNT
March 5, 2020**

To: Hon. Dereck E. Davis, Chair, Hon. Kathleen M. Dumais, Vice Chair, and members of the Economic Matters Committee

From: George Hogan, Business Manager, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26

Chairman Davis, and distinguished members of the committee, I am asking you to oppose HB 1545, a bill disguised to look environmentally sound and financially responsible to Maryland citizens. In fact, if enacted, this bill will leave the state, "grid dependent" on bordering states who in return charge Maryland for the electricity that they produce, using COAL! If enacted, this transition account, will fall well short of compensating your constituents and my members. IBEW Local 26 members that are self-funded in terms of living wages, health benefits and a secure retirement, will now be forced to be dependents of the state.

My job is to educate and employ all of my members. We are informed, equipped and are now working on all forms of green energy, and proud to be leaders in that field. The loss of coal will not cause us to lose a step, in fact in a green state we will prosper even more. But the truth is, Maryland is not self-sufficient in terms of clean or cleaner energy. Before you vote on this bill, I ask you to educate your constituents, let them know that Maryland is not currently ready to do away with coal burning power plants. We are just willing to export and purchase it from neighboring states. Let them know that if this bill passes, the carbon dioxide emissions will still be affecting our health, negatively. These targeted generating units will be shut down, communities destroyed and thousands of Marylanders will be left fighting for scraps designated by this transition account.

I ask that this committee continue to search and utilize all forms of clean fuel, however this goal of shutting down these primary coal generating units by 2023, is a "showboat" move that is unrealistic and disastrous to the state. **FACT: Maryland is not and will not be able to sustain its electrical power needs without these primary coal generating units for at least 20 years, if passed this bill will just force us (Maryland) to purchase electricity from Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia. FACT: This energy is produced by Coal!**





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I also ask that you please take the time to achieve the goal of being self-energy reliant before you close down these units, I ask you, the members of the Economic Matters Committee, to at least request a summer study. This study will educate all of us, producing future legislation guided with better knowledge from all parties, this summer study will also allow you to fact check my claims stated above. I request that each and every Delegate to let this sink in, "Maryland wants to and should be the leader in clean energy, but Maryland is not and will not be able to sustain its electrical power needs without these primary coal generating units for at least 20 years, we will not be ready by 2023." Sponsors of this bill are putting the cart, decades before of the horse.

I also ask that you look closely at the Fossil Fuel Transition Account, if your intention is too smooth over this process by directing funds to invest in communities and retrain workers, then this measly account falls way short. I ask that you take responsibility for your legislation and make this a budget item, appropriating all the necessary funds.

As the leader of 4636 Maryland electricians, residents and voters, I ask you to oppose this rushed bill, HB 1545.

Thank you,

George C. Hogan
Business Manager

