

# INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

AFFILIATED WITH:

Baltimore-D.C. Metro 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

National Safety Council



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## Testimony of

Peter Demchuk, Business Manager, IBEW, LOCAL 24

Before the

House Economic Matters Committee

On

HB 66 – Electric Generation - Transition From Fossil Fuels –  
Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition plan and Fund

**Strongly Oppose**

February 16, 2021

Dear 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 41-year member, and Business Manager, of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 24, located in Baltimore. I represent approximately 2,000 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, not only to my profession but to all the working men and women in Maryland.

HB 66 is not good for tradespeople in the state of Maryland. The last job performed by my members at Brandon Shores averaged more than 150 workers over

18 months. That translates to more than a half-million hours worked. A half-million hours of Maryland residents having good, honest, family sustaining work. That's not even mentioning the actual employees of these power houses. Arbitrary numbers on what qualifies a "displaced worker" (the 20-person minimum or losing 75% of net income) do nothing to assure these hardworking, essential employees are cared about and understood throughout this process.

The transition funding in this bill has no guarantees that I can see. There is no data to show the amounts suggested are enough for a just transition for the many workers that will be impacted. The language of the bill sets unrealistic expectations for many workers to be retrained and find comparable employment in other fields. These issues don't just affect individuals at a plant of more than 20 displaced workers. They impact spouses, children, communities, whole sectors of our Maryland economy. These are the hardworking men and women who kept the lights on during a global pandemic and were considered essential then, but apparently not now.

Lastly, nowhere in the text of this bill, or any others, does it address from where Maryland residents will get their energy. My members and I agree that there needs to be cleaner ways to generate electricity, but that infrastructure is not yet in place. The timeline called for in HB-66 is too aggressive with no other clean energy alternatives in the area. For these reasons and others, the IBEW IS OPPOSED TO THE CLOSURE OF FOSSIL FUEL PLANTS!

On behalf of 2,000 of my members and many other hardworking men and women of Maryland, I IMPLORE you to give HB 66 an **unfavorable** report.

Thank you,



Peter P. Demchuk

PPD:CLR  
AFL-CIO  
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