

International Brotherhood of

BOILERMAKERS • IRON SHIP BUILDERS

753 State Avenue

NEWTON B. JONES
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

WILLIAM T. CREEDEN
INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER
913-371-2640



BLACKSMITHS • FORGERS & HELPERS

Kansas City, Kansas 66101-2511

MARTIN WILLIAMS, JR.
NATIONAL COORDINATOR
OF STATE LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
M.O.R.E. WORK INVESTMENT FUND
753 STATE AVENUE, SUITE 570
KANSAS CITY, KS 66101
Mobile: 215-760-6306
Fax: 913-281-8101
EMAIL: mwilliams@boilermakers.org

February 16, 2021

Re: HB 66 – Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021

To all committee members,

Boilermakers Local 45, Richmond, VA, whose geographic jurisdiction includes Maryland, asks you to oppose HB 66, the Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021.

Notwithstanding the publicly announced plans by several owners of facilities specifically mentioned in the bill, it is our position that placing Maryland's remaining coal-fired power plants on an accelerated path to closure is not in the state's best interest. Maryland's coal-fired power plants continue to produce affordable and reliable electricity, support thousands of good-paying jobs including those of our members, and help support local communities through much needed tax revenue. Accelerated closure will also mean an increase in imported power, risk to the overall stability of the power grid, and an increase in consumer electricity prices.

We also share the skepticism expressed by other building trades unions over the bill's proposed emissions threshold and methods used to establish them. In addition, we have concerns about funding levels for grants that would be awarded under the proposed Fossil Fuel Community Transition Account. It is our position that for any transition away from an industry that has supported communities and workers for generations to be successful that substantial funding is needed. This bill does not achieve that.

Given the state's participation in RGGI and the recent update to the state's RPS, we believe HB 66 is unnecessary and potentially harmful. Respectfully, we ask you to oppose HB 66.

Thank you for considering our position. Please contact us with any questions or requests for additional information.

Respectfully,

Martin Williams
National Coordinator of State Legislative Affairs
M.O.R.E. Work Investment Fund
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers