



**Local Union 1900
Of The
International Brotherhood Of Electrical Workers**



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Representing the Employees of
Potomac Electric Power Co., GenOn Energy and Washington Gas

Proudly Serving Our Nation's Capital

February 16, 2021

House Bill 66 - Electric Generation - Transition from Fossil Fuels - Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Plan and Fund (Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021)

OPPOSE

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jerry R. Williford Jr. I am the President/Business Manager/Financial Secretary of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local Union 1900.

IBEW Local 1900 presently represents 133 employees working at four coal generating units which are targeted by House Bill 66 which you are considering. These units are at two GenOn Energy generating plants in Maryland. The Chalk Point plant is located in southern Prince George's County in Aquasco, Maryland, Morgantown Generating Station is located in Charles County in Newburg, Maryland.

We also represent workers in the Frederick, Maryland office of Washington Gas and at Pepco in Washington D.C. Combined, these three companies employ approximately 1100 Local 1900 members.

The workers that we represent at the three GenOn plants earn tens of millions of dollars annually in wages alone. Their average wage is \$47.31 per hour straight time. Their average annual compensation excluding overtime is \$98,404 per year. In total this translates to over \$13,000,000 annually in base wages for the entire group.

Our Brothers and Sisters at GenOn also enjoy a defined pension, contribute to 401(k) accounts and have a robust health insurance plan. They have paid sick leave and vacation. A guaranteed 40-hour workweek provides them a stable, long term employment.

This proposed legislation puts a large majority of jobs at risk at these plants. The workers' job skills cannot be easily transitioned to other occupations should they lose their jobs. Maintaining and running a power plant is very specialized as I am sure that you know. It is hard to believe that these workers will be able to transition to a meaningful career. Apprenticeship programs are for the young, those just starting out. Presently over 95 GenOn employees are over the age of 40.

These employees are at a vulnerable point in their careers. Many have spent 20, 25 and even over 30 years working at their respective plants. All these employees would lose out on a full dignified pension because they have not reached retirement age.

A very important part that cannot be calculated is the value of working under a collective bargaining agreement. Union workers also having a union that represents them through a grievance and arbitration process to ensure fairness in the day to day employer employee relationship.

The union employees at GenOn have had decades of collective bargaining agreements negotiated by IBEW Local 1900. Presently we have a relationship that is respectful with both the union members and with GenOn management, which is immensely helpful in resolving disputes.

I would respectfully request that you allow the market to decide the future of these generating units, not random dates picked to place unachievable requirements on them.

On behalf of the 1100 active members of IBEW Local 1900, I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify in **opposition** of House Bill 66.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry R. Williford Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jerry R. Williford Jr.
President/Business Manager/Financial Secretary
IBEW Local Union 1900