INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
OF
ELECTRICAL
WORKERS
AFL·CIO & CLC

LOCAL UNION 70

Maryland House of Delegates Economic Matters Committee

Chair: CT Wilson
Vice Chair: Brian M. Crosby

HB 0088 – Public Utilities – Energy Distribution Planning and Required Labor Standards

February 1, 2022

POSITION: SUPPORT

Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of HB 88 – Public Utilities – Energy Distribution Planning and Required Labor Standards.

My name is James Horton, and I am the Business Manager of IBEW Local Union 70, serving the state of Maryland. On behalf of our union members, I would like to offer the following comments.

WE SUPPORT THE BILL IN ITS ENTIERTY!

The Public Service Commission (PSC) has tremendous power and authority to determine the future of energy generation in Maryland. With such power, we believe that accountability, transparency, and the wellbeing of all Marylanders should be at the forefront of their thinking.

HB 88 requires to ESTABLISH AND EXECUTE A PLAN FOR OUTREACH, RECRUITMENT, 21 AND RETENTION OF STATE RESIDENTS TO PERFORM WORK ON THE PROJECT, WITH 22 AN ASPIRATIONAL GOAL OF 25% OF TOTAL WORK HOURS PERFORMED BY 23 MARYLAND RESIDENT.

HB 88 requires the PSC to add to their considerations, the establishment of Workgroups that would allow stakeholders to have a say in energy distribution planning, reporting its recommendations to the commission. Labor should have an opportunity to be included in the new workgroup.

HB 88 requires the establishment of labor standards in all elements of electric grid modernization. Local 70 believes the labor standards created by this bill will help to promote job quality allowing for family-sustaining job creation. These new labor standards will help improve system reliability, safety, resilience, distributed energy resources integration, power quality, customer satisfaction.

Respectfully,

James M. Horton
Business Manager