



Sunrise Movement Maryland

Committee: Economic Matters

Testimony on: HB0088 - Public Utilities - Energy Distribution Planning and Required Labor Standards

Organization: Climate Justice Wing of the Maryland Legislative Coalition

Submitting: Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 3, 2022

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of HB0088. Sunrise Movement Maryland, a youth led movement of Sunrise hubs fighting the climate crisis by creating millions of good green jobs, urges you to vote favorably on HB0088.

HB0088 complements the Public Service Commission's (PSC's) existing Distribution System Planning process. The bill will establish a Distribution System Planning Workgroup to study issues related to energy distribution planning and implementation. In addition, it will require the PSC to adopt regulations related to energy distribution planning and implementation; require the PSC and the Maryland Energy Administration to coordinate with utilities regarding federal infrastructure grid improvement funding; and establish labor standards for contractors and subcontractors in grid modernization projects.



We support a Green New Deal to rapidly transition to a renewable based economy that protects the health of our people and functioning ecosystems in our home here in Maryland. We know that in order to rapidly scale renewables, we must plan, retrofit, and build a grid that is ready for the changes to come and protects workers and communities. The work ahead to mitigate the climate crisis will require significant and responsible planning. Cutting global emissions in half by 2030 will not happen automatically, through improvising, or sheer will, it will happen because those responsible for mitigating the crisis planned the new energy systems and grids that we rely on. This bill supports this process for the electricity grid

Furthermore, folks working on the grid must be granted adequate labor standards so they can provide for themselves and their families and work in dignified conditions. The decade of the Green New Deal must not only build up a clean, green, renewable grid, but we must build up our workers, our unions, our communities, and our democratic institutions, so that the people we love can thrive in the future we are building for them.

HB0088 will help Maryland undertake the improvements needed to have a resilient electricity grid that supports the clean-energy economy and workers of the future. We support this bill and recommend a FAVORABLE report in committee.

Sincerely,

Stephen Leas
2834 N Calvert St
Baltimore, MD 21218

On behalf of:



Sunrise Movement Baltimore

Sunrise Movement Silver Spring

Sunrise Movement Howard County

Sunrise Movement Frederick

Sunrise Movement University of Maryland

Sunrise Movement University of Maryland, Baltimore County