



Mission: *To improve public health in Maryland through education and advocacy* **Vision:** *Healthy Marylanders living in Healthy Communities*

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 170
Energy Generation Projects – Required Labor Standards
Before the Senate Finance Committee
By: Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA)
February 9, 2023**

Chair Griffith and Members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 170.

This bill will require that individuals who work to construct most energy generation projects with a capacity of two megawatts or more are paid no less than the prevailing wage rate (as determined under state law) or are working under a project labor agreement that satisfies the standards set forth in this bill. The covered energy projects of two megawatts or more include those that have received a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) from the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC), and those exempted by the PSC from obtaining a CPCN pursuant to a specified state law provision; the covered projects do not include offshore wind projects.

The Maryland Public Health Association is committed to the principles of equity, justice, and inclusion, and are striving to put these principles at the center of environmental initiatives. These principles include respecting and supporting the rights of workers, which includes their ability to have good jobs, earn a decent living, and enjoy occupational health and safety protections.

Work is one of the key elements that can increase sufficient redistribution of wealth and income to communities and also promote social and economic security as well as basic equity.¹ As the future of Maryland's energy economy transforms, it is critical that the jobs created are good family wage or prevailing wage jobs with benefits, and that job training be provided for local residents, women, and minorities. Hence, Maryland should join other states which have passed laws to establish labor standards for energy projects.

We urge a favorable report on this bill.

¹ Berwick DM. The Moral Determinants of Health. JAMA. 2020;324(3):225–226.
doi:10.1001/jama.2020.11129

Sincerely,

The Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA) is a nonprofit, statewide organization of public health professionals dedicated to improving the lives of all Marylanders through education, advocacy, and collaboration. We support public policies consistent with our vision of healthy Marylanders living in healthy, equitable, communities. MdPHA is the state affiliate of the American Public Health Association, a nearly 145-year-old professional organization dedicated to improving population health and reducing the health disparities that plague our state and our nation.

Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA)
PO Box 7045 • 6801 Oak Hall Ln • Columbia, MD 21045-9998
GetInfo@MdPHA.org www.mdpha.org 443.475.0242