



TESTIMONY OF
WILLIAM BECKMAN, VICE PRESIDENT AND BUSINESS AGENT, IRONWORKERS
LOCAL 5
SB170 – ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS – REQUIRED LABOR STANDARDS

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT

Dear Chair Griffith and honorable members of the Senate Finance Committee:

As Vice President and Business Agent of Ironworkers Local 5, on behalf of our 1,000 Ironworkers, Journeymen, Apprentices and Retirees, I write to express our support for SB170 and the strong labor standards that it represents, with an amendment to include Offshore Wind, and to conform the bill with the federal Inflation Reduction Act.

As currently drafted, SB170 specifically exempts Offshore Wind (see Page 2, lines 13-14). Our understanding is that this specific provision was intended to be responsive to (a misunderstanding of) enabling Offshore Wind legislation (the Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act of 2013, and the Clean Energy Jobs Act of 2019), and a supposed requirement of a Project Labor Agreement. To be clear, there is no statutory requirement for a Project Labor Agreement for Offshore Wind. Given the importance and the benefits of a Project Labor Agreement on both Round 1 and Round 2 of the Offshore Wind Targets, we strenuously urge the committee to strike lines 13-14 on Page 2 of the bill.

In addition, as currently drafted, SB170 specifically applies to projects over 2 Megawatt, which is overly restrictive, and conflicts with the federal standards of 1 Megawatt in the



Inflation Reduction Act. As such, we would urge the committee to replace “2 Megawatts” with “1 MEGAWATT” on line 6 on Page 2.

These changes are greatly needed, and we ask for the committee’s consideration of their adoption.

Thank you for your consideration, and we ask for a favorable committee report, with amendment.

Sincerely,

William Beckman,

William Beckman

Vice President & Business Agent
Ironworkers Local 5