



MARYLAND
LEAGUE OF
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VOTERS

February 15, 2024

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SUPPORT: HB682 - Energy Generation Projects- Labor and Minority Business Enterprise Requirements

Chair Wilson and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV Supports HB682 - Energy Generation Projects - Labor and Minority Business Enterprise Requirements and we thank Delegate Atterbeary for her leadership on this issue.

Maryland LCV is committed to centering our state's environmental policies in principles of economic and environmental justice. As we push our state forward towards a clean energy economy, it is imperative that that economy include good, family-sustaining jobs, and pathways to those jobs through apprenticeships and training programs. In recent years, this committee has advanced our state to this goal through incorporating language in legislation related to off-shore wind, community solar, and geothermal energy development, however it is time to address the issue holistically, and commit to consistent labor standards among all energy projects above 1MW. This bill does just that. By ensuring that all projects, regardless of technology, are held to the same standards, it ensures that companies that offer industry standards of wage rates and training do not face a competitive disadvantage from those actors who would cut corners and cut costs.

Equally important requires the Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs, in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, to establish a clear path for increased participation by minority-owned enterprises in the energy sector. This is a key component to ensuring that our clean energy economy is inclusive and benefits all Marylanders.

Maryland LCV is proud to stand with our partners in organized labor, and we urge a favorable report on this important bill.