



## **PLUMBERS AND STEAMFITTERS**

### **UA LOCAL UNION 486**

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Founded 1889

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**Gerald W. Jackson**  
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*Business Agent*

**Harry M. Schleicher Jr.**  
*Business Agent*

**Stephen M. Nitsch**  
*Business Agent*

**Todd E. Eckley**  
*Recruiter*

## **Economic Matters Committee**

**To: Chairman Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Committee Members**

**Position: Support HB397**

My name is Gerald Jackson. I am the Assistant Business Manager for Plumbers & Steamfitter's Local union 486 representing **2500** members, I am also the Secretary- Treasurer for the Maryland State and D.C. AFLCIO representing **300,000** workers and I am a board member for the Maryland Climate Change Commission.

I strongly support **HB397**.

As a Steamfitter who has worker in the construction industry for 43 years, I have seen the decimation of the fossil fuel energy sector. A large portion of our work has transitioned to "Clean Energy" and we are ready to accept the challenge. Geo-Thermal Energy is a sensible option for heating and cooling that eliminates Carbon Emissions. With a mandate to attain full electrification by 2041, which I personally believe is un-attainable, Geothermal Energy is needed to achieve the goals set by the state of Maryland. **HB397** provides a detail plan that Includes language for safe installation, labor peace, MBE participation and Labor Standards which help to facilitate the good paying jobs lost as a result of the emergence of the "Green Energy Sector". We need legislation that promotes good paying jobs, apprenticeship training and a pathway to the middle class.

This is common sense legislation that I believe we all can agree with.

For these reasons I'm asking for a favorable report for HB397.

Respectfully Submitted

Gerald W. Jackson

Assistant Business Manager Plumbers & Steamfitter's Local 486

Secretary- Treasurer Md. State & D.C. AFL-CIO