



Electrical Workers

Insulators

Boilermakers

United Association

Plumbers & Gas Fitters

Sprinkler Fitters

Steam Fitters

Roofers

Cement Masons

Teamsters

Laborers

Bricklayers

Ironworkers

Sheet Metal Workers

Elevator Constructors

Painters

Operating Engineers

Carpenters

February 15, 2024

The Honorable CT Wilson, Chair
The Honorable Brian Crosby, Vice Chair
House Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building - Room 231
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**HB 682 - Energy and Generation Projects –
Labor and Minority Business Requirements
Position - Support**

Thank you Chair Wilson and Vice Chair Crosby and members of the Committee for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 682.

My name is Victoria Leonard. I am here today on behalf of the Baltimore-DC Building Trades (BDCBT). The BDCBT represents 28 construction trade unions across Maryland, Northern Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Combined, our trade unions represent more than 30,000 skilled craft professionals in the construction industry.

BDCBT supports HB 682. It establishes prevailing wage on energy generation projects. As the state of Maryland shifts to a green economy and away from fossil fuels, it is important that the jobs created by the transition are quality jobs with benefits.

Prevailing wage standards are especially important because energy developers and construction contractors sometimes engage in business practices that do not promote quality jobs for local residents or opportunities for local and minority businesses. These practices include: use of a traveling workforce, effectively boxing out opportunities for local employment; reliance on temporary staffing agencies whose workers are paid wages so low they receive federal food assistance and Medicaid benefits; and misclassification of workers as 1099 independent contractors to avoid payroll taxes.

Moreover, extending the state's prevailing wage to energy generation aligns with the General Assembly's goal to create quality infrastructure jobs. Finally, HB 682 aligns with President Biden's goals in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, which provides enhanced tax benefits for a range of clean energy projects that pay prevailing wage.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on HB 682.

Value on Display... Everyday.

