



Chairman Dereck Davis
Vice-Chair Kathleen Dumais
Members
House ECM Committee
241 House Office Bldg
Annapolis, MD 21401

HB1545 – Transition from Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account

Position – Favorable with Amendments

Good afternoon Chairman Davis and members of the House Economic Matters Committee. My name is Rick Binetti. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of amending HB 1545.

LiUNA's 80 Maryland-based contractors who keep 4,000 of our members living in Maryland employed, are supportive of HB1545 **BUT ONLY** as meaningful starting point for a real conversation about issues related to job transitioning for the thousands of Maryland's tradespeople affected by this legislation.

As we testified in the Senate Finance Committee, this bill is not ready for primetime. While BWLDC is on the record in saying that the Sierra Club, Chesapeake Climate Action Network and the League of Conservation Voters have made good faith efforts to communicate with the Building Trades, we think amending this bill into a summer study and workgroup over the interim is the best way to start this conversation. There are simply too many good-paying and middleclass jobs at stake in these coal plants for any decision about shutting them down to be made this quickly.

That is why the Baltimore-Washington Laborers District Council supports an amendment that would create a workgroup, with all relevant stakeholders, to look at the issues this bill is trying to address. These include labor representatives from the Building Trades and any trade directly affected by this bill; representatives from the environmental community; representatives from the owners of the all coal plants listed in the bill; representatives from the relevant MD State agencies; and representatives from the committees of jurisdiction from both the House and Senate.

It is vital that Maryland do its part to tackle climate change, but any of these efforts **MUST** include input from **ALL** constituencies involved. Up to this point, in the large majority of legislation related to climate change, increasing RPS goals and use of green energy, issues labor and what to do about the existing jobs related to fossil fuel energy production have been an afterthought. It's time to change that.

We would ask the Committee to only consider passage of HB 1545 if it is amended to become a workgroup to study the issue of job transition related to Maryland's efforts to deal with climate change. Thank you.