



**Local Union 1900
Of The
International Brotherhood Of Electrical Workers**



1400 Mercantile Lane – Suite 256 – Largo, Maryland 20774
Office: (301) 322-6030 Fax: (301) 322-6181

Representing the Employees of
Potomac Electric Power Co., GenOn Energy and Washington Gas

Proudly Serving Our Nation's Capital

**SB 887 - Electric Generation - Transition from Fossil Fuels - Carbon
Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account**

Senate Finance Committee

February 25, 2020

OPPOSE

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

**Good afternoon. My name is James Griffin. I am the President/Business
Manager/Financial Secretary of the International Brotherhood of Electrical
Workers (IBEW) Local Union 1900.**

**Local 1900 represents 210 employees working at 7 of the 12 coal generating
units targeted by Senate Bill 887 which you are considering. These units are
at three GenOn Energy generating plants in Maryland. The Dickerson plant
is in upper northwest Montgomery County, Chalk Point is in southern Prince
George's County and Morgantown is in Charles County at the
Maryland/Virginia line on route 301.**

**We also represent the workers at Pepco in DC and the Frederick, Maryland
office of Washington Gas. Combined, these three companies employ
approximately 1,200 Local 1900 members, the vast majority of which live in
Maryland.**

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my perspective on Senate Bill 887.

The workers we represent at the 3 GenOn plants earn tens of millions of dollars annually in wages alone. Their average wage today is \$44.65/hour straight time. Doing the math that's AN average annual compensation of \$92,872 excluding overtime. This translates to over \$19,500,000 annually in base wages for the entire group.

These workers enjoy a defined pension, contribute to 401(k) accounts and have a robust health insurance plan. They have paid vacation and sick leave. A guaranteed 40-hour workweek provides them with very stable, long-term employment.

This proposed legislation places a large majority of jobs at risk at these plants. The workers' job skills cannot be easily transferred to other occupations should they lose their jobs. Running and maintaining a power plant is very specialized as I am sure you know.

It is beyond a stretch to believe that these workers can transition to other careers. Apprenticeship programs are for the young, those just starting out. Right now, 174 of these workers are 40 years old or older. Of those, 142 are 50 years old or older.

A meaningful transition for them cannot be legislated. They are at a very vulnerable point in their careers. They have spent 15, 20, 25 years working at their plant. Any disruption of their service will mean losing out on a full, dignified pension because they haven't worked long enough and haven't reached retirement age.

One thing that can't be calculated is the value of working under a collective bargaining agreement. In addition to having a union to negotiate their contract, workers enjoy having that union represent them through a grievance and arbitration process to ensure fairness in the day-to-day employer-employee relationship.

The workers at GenOn have had decades of collective bargaining agreements negotiated by Local 1900. It is a mature relationship we have with the workers and with management. These relationships are immensely helpful in resolving disputes. There is no calculating the value of this.

On behalf of the 1,200 active members of Local 1900, I thank you for this opportunity to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 887.

I urge you to let the market decide the future of these generating units, not random dates picked to place unachievable requirements on them.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Griffin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "G".

James Griffin

President/Business Manager/Financial Secretary

IBEW Local Union 1900