



# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

A.F.L. – C.I.O. – C.F.I.

## Local Union No. 307

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**Rodney E. Rice – Business Manager**

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**George A. Koontz - President**

February 21, 2020

To: Finance Committee

From: International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers L.U. 307

Subject: SB 887 - Electric Generation - Transition from Fossil Fuels - Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account.

Position: OPPOSED

Dear Chair Kelly, Vice Chair Feldman and members of the Finance committee,

The IBEW Local 307 Opposes SB 887 for several reasons.

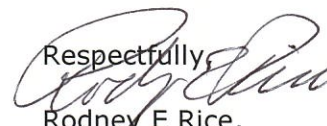
The coal industry is a very important part of Western Maryland. Allegany County recently lost a very important employer to our community, Luke Paper Mill. The closure of the paper mill affected over 700 employees that worked directly for the mill, but also people who were employed by vendors and other contractors that serviced the mill. Fast track regulations had a very significant part in the mill not being able to operate in a profitable way and maintain operations, which led to the closure of the mill.

Supporting this bill will do the same thing to the AES powerhouse, which is considered to be one of the cleanest burning coal facilities in the country. AES also captures and reuses the carbon that is produced for other products. The powerhouse employee's around 50 full time employees and provides good wages and benefits for their families.

Western MD has been trying to construct a wind farm on Dan's Mountain for 15 years. But due to the environmentalists and bureaucracy have been unsuccessful. Getting rid of fossil fueled power plants without alternative energy sources in place will jeopardize the stability of the grid. The green energy jobs that are supposed to re-employ workers of these facilities will not provide the same pay and benefits they have worked so hard to earn.

IBEW 307 members respectfully Oppose this bill and ask for an unfavorable report for SB 887.

Thank you for reviewing my testimony.

Respectfully,  
  
Rodney E Rice,  
IBEW L.U. 307  
Business Manager