

NATYIA_FAV_SB887

Uploaded by: Brown, Natyia

Position: FAV

February 24, 2020

Dear Maryland General Assembly,

My name is natyia brown. I am a 5th grader from Highland Park Elementary in Prince George's County. . I am writing about the Coal-Fired Power Plants. Coal can cause problems for people with respiratory problems we shouldn't have coal plants because the coal plants cause pollution and pollution is linked with asthma,cancer,heart and lung ailments,and acid rain .

We need power. We can use solar power or wind power. We can find cleaner sources of power than coal.

Sincerely, Natyia

CLEGHORN_FAV_SB887

Uploaded by: Cleghorn, Stephen

Position: FAV

TESTIMONY ON SB 887
Position: FAVORABLE
February 25, 2020
Senate Finance Committee

Chairwoman Delores Kelly and Members of the Committee:

I write as a member of Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home to implore you to pass SB0887, a bill that will come before your committee tomorrow for a hearing.

In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis states that “technology based on the use of highly polluting fossil fuels – especially coal, but also oil and, to a lesser degree, gas – needs to be progressively replaced without delay.” Coal plants are a leading contributor of smog-forming nitrogen oxide pollution, which threatens human health. Over 85% of Marylanders live in counties that are in non-attainment for federal clean air standards for smog. That number increases to over 90% for African American and Hispanic Communities, which raise concerns about equity and the treatment of vulnerable populations. The provisions for community transition are responsive to Catholic principles of solidarity and concern for workers.

I hope you will do whatever you can to pass this legislation.

Sincerely,

J. Stephen Cleghorn
Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home
& *St. Matthew Catholic Church Green Team* (Baltimore)

GALLEY_FAV_SB887

Uploaded by: Galley, Charlotte

Position: FAV

Committee: Senate Finance
Testimony on: SB 887
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 25, 2020

I've lived my 52 years in Maryland, half of that in Baltimore. Baltimore has changed a great deal, and absolutely for the better in that time. However, the inequity, injustice, and the filth remain. We all suffer from each poor environmental decision - we're in this boat together. It is time to shut down dirty coal plants, particularly those without modern pollution controls, and move to clean and renewable alternatives, already out performing fossil fuels both nationwide and worldwide. As a Marylander, I sincerely hope we can move toward renewable, clean power, 100% clean energy immediately, to preserve our beautiful state. It is time to shut down dirty coal plants, and move to clean and renewable solutions. Ocean City will survive off shore wind mills. As a Baltimorean, I want a more equitable society - typically, and certainly here, fossil fuel plants have disproportional impacts on neighborhoods of color, always suffering more environmental injustices throughout the history of our city. It is time to shut down the dirty coal plants that are causing so many health problems in hundreds of thousands of our neighbors. As a human with respiratory problems from a previous health scare. I want less smog and pollution - fewer Code Orange Days. I commute to work by electric assisted bicycle. It is time to shut down the dirty coal plants that are pumping our poisons, causing acid rain and exasperating respiratory issues. Furthermore, I hope the workers will be retrained/somehow not left out in the cold. We're trying to HELP BALTIMORE! Thanks for listening, Charlotte

--

Charlotte L. S. Galley

Membership / Communications / Executive Committee ~ [Sierra Club, Greater Baltimore Group](#)

Chef ~ www.ChefGalley.com

Human ~ CGalley2000@gmail.com

GOHN_FAV_SB887

Uploaded by: Gohn, Becca

Position: FAV

Committee: Senate Finance
Testimony on: SB 887
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 25, 2020

Dear Maryland legislators and committee members,

I am in strong support of the proposed Maryland Coal Community Transition Bills SB887 and HB1545. Coal burning has polluted air, water, and human life for the past century without remorse, and the state of our climate cannot withstand any more. Maryland is tired of relying on 19th century mechanisms of production, especially those that cost MORE than clean energy; the future offshore wind projects are projected to produce approximately 43% more electricity than three of our coal power plants. Fossil fuel company's paychecks are not equivalent to the lives and ecosystems that they destroy.

These bills will ensure the enforcement of Maryland's Healthy Air Act through appropriate emission standards and regulations that remove the ability to pump nitrogen oxides into our air. Maryland has already received D and F environmental justice performance grades, with 17,406 children diagnosed with asthma in Baltimore County. Surrounding the city, Brandon Shores and Herbert A. Wagner stations are strategically placed upstream and adjacent to communities of color, disproportionately affecting those who have no choice but to live with the consequences.

Our goal is not to displace communities that have been forced to rely on these corporations for a livelihood. The bill will incorporate a Coal Community Transition Plan and Account, allowing workers and families impacted to be retrained and supported in the transition processes. We demand greener energy that supports Maryland as a whole. The demand for electricity will not be impacted, our health will increase dramatically, and our communities will fill new jobs that lead to a cleaner future.

Consider these ideas when making your decision.

Becca Gohn

CCAN Action Fund_FAV_SB887

Uploaded by: Hershkowitz, Steven

Position: FAV

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 887
Senate Finance Committee | February 25, 2020

Steven Hershkowitz, CCAN Action Fund Maryland Director

The Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) Action Fund conditionally supports Senate Bill 887, legislation to effectively retire Maryland's six remaining coal-fired power plants. We thank Sen. Chris West for sponsoring this legislation to provide a transition process for workers and communities impacted by the state's movement from coal to renewable energy. But we urge the Committee to engage impacted workers and their representatives to find a transition plan that meets their requests.

CCAN Action Fund and our grassroots network throughout Maryland is dedicated to achieving a net zero greenhouse gas emission economy by 2045, as is recommended by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). To create this future, we must invest in frontline and historically disadvantaged communities, protect workers, create good-paying union jobs, and result in greater wealth and income equality.

The IPCC has recommended that in order to avoid the worst consequences of climate change, we must keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius. They write, "In modelled 1.5°C pathways with limited or no overshoot...the use of coal shows a steep reduction in all pathways and would be reduced to close to 0% (0–2% interquartile range) of electricity (high confidence)." The top climate scientists are telling us that coal is incompatible with a healthy climate for our children.

The IPCC also recommends that states with high median income like Maryland must reduce their emissions 60% by 2030 (based on 2010 levels) in order to stay below 1.5 degrees Celsius. That means Maryland must reduce its emissions to 42.8 MMtCO₂e. Right now we are at 78.5 MMtCO₂e. It is extremely difficult to reduce emissions in the transportation or buildings sectors (responsible for a combined 58% of emissions) without (1) significant funding or private sector regulation that the General Assembly has not committed to, and (2) a 100% clean electricity sector, since reducing emissions in transportation and buildings relies on electric infrastructure, like cars and stoves. In-state coal plants are currently responsible for 8.8 MMtCO₂e. There is no pathway for Maryland to meet essential scientific climate benchmarks without retiring its coal-fired power plants.

That being said, there are hundreds of Marylanders who currently rely on these six plants for good-paying, union jobs. This is one of the many hard choices we will have to make to stop climate change in its tracks. How do we transition off of coal in a way that holds these workers harmless? This bill's proposal for a transition account, governed in large part by labor leaders, is a good first step. But CCAN Action Fund believes in the principle of worker voice. That means representatives of workers should lead the transition planning that protects themselves and their colleagues. It is clear, due in no fault to the bill sponsor nor the climate advocates supporting the bill, that workers have not

led or agreed to the process proposed in this legislation. The Committee should take that into consideration.

While there is much work to be done this session on a multitude of bills, none would create greater immediate positive progress on climate change than this legislation. We ask Committee leadership to bring labor leaders to the table to pursue a workable transition plan before Sine Die. It might not be possible with just a handful of weeks remaining. But at the very least it will kickstart needed conversations in the interim. The proposed Climate Jobs Working Group in SB926 is one option for formalizing this work if a resolution is not reached by April 6.

We urge the Committee to give Senate Bill 887 a favorable report, on the condition that a worker transition plan is developed with buy-in and approval of labor leaders representing Maryland coal workers.

CONTACT

Steven Hershkowitz, Maryland Director
steven@chesapeakeclimate.org or (310) 941-7886

SEMAJ_FAV_SB887

Uploaded by: Hubbard, Semaj

Position: FAV

February 24,2020

Dear Maryland General Assembly,

My name is, Semaj Hubbard . I am writing about the coal fire plants Today I am at my school, in highland park elementary in prince george county . I'm writing to you out of concern for the coal plants currently in Maryland. Because it causes cancer and problems breathing. Many kids who has asthma and we need to find a better way to stop coal power stations so more people and kids could have better life and live longer.

What is coal? Coal is a hard rock which can be burned as a solid fossil fuel.

Why is it used? Coal has many important uses worldwide.

Why is it bad? its bad because people are getting sick from coal mostly kids with asthma.

What bill are they voting on and how should they vote?Vote to close the coal plants and use clean power!

sb887, redirect SEIF for coal retirement, 2-25-20

Uploaded by: Hudson, Lee

Position: FAV



Delaware-Maryland Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Testimony prepared for the
Finance Committee
on

Senate Bill 887

February 25, 2020

Position: **Favorable**

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of caring for the blessings of the living environment.. I am Lee Hudson, assistant to the bishop for public policy in the Delaware-Maryland Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are a faith community of congregations in three ELCA synods, located in every part of the State.

Our community began its journey in care of creation in 1993 ("Caring for Creation," ELCA) when we identified greenhouse gas emissions as an environmental threat.

We've supported expansion of renewables in Maryland's energy portfolio and the retirement of coal-fired power generation. Our intent was to advance our commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the resulting environmental threat.

Senate Bill 887 would cap CO₂ emissions on specific generating units now in service, a goal we support. It will also assist making that policy practicable by an administrative revision to ease the loss of these units in their subdivision economies and their workforces.

We ask a favorable report.

Thank you for your hearing.

Lee Hudson

Johns_Corey_FAV_SB 887

Uploaded by: Johns, Corey

Position: FAV

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

Corey Johns

Support

Dear Madam Chair, Mr. vice-chair, members of the Finance Committee and joining today's hearing, members of the education, health and environmental affairs committee:

My name is Corey Johns and I am testifying in support of SB 887. It is time for Maryland to move away from coal plants.

I can give you some numbers, which you already know. 14-percent of the energy produced in Maryland is produced by the coal plants while they produce over 70-percent of the air pollution in the state. According to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, a healthy bay itself is worth nearly \$130 billion from increased property values, increase recreational opportunities, more productive farmlands and other industries that rely on the Bay.

But it is the last set of statistics that explain to you why this legislation means so much to me. 88-percent of Marylanders live in areas with unhealthy air based on EPA Standards. Eight Counties received an F smog ratings from the American Lung Association.

And Maryland has 500,000 asthma sufferers, including myself. And that is why I have become involved in learning about and supportive of this plan to move away from coal in Maryland.

I live in Eastern Baltimore County, District 6. I have asthma. In the summer, when people are cutting the grass, sometimes it is difficult to even go outside. My dad also has asthma and deals with the same struggles. I am a bit fortunate in that the coal plant that was in my district has closed, but we still have the double site right over the key bridge with the smoke hovering over Eastern Baltimore County. Combined with the coal plant that used to be in Essex for so long, where I live routinely ranks among the worst air quality in the state and has a very high number of asthmatics and people with other breathing difficulties. Those coal plants certainly have played a factor in that.

Again, half the battle is complete with the coal plant in Essex having been closed recently, but there are still six more we need to move away from.

I want to move forward knowing the air quality of where I live will get better and not worse. I want to know that if I have kids in the future they won't be incredibly likely to develop asthma or other breathing issues because of the polluted air. For the health benefit of people who live where I live, future generations of where I live, and for the health benefit of all the Marylanders affected by the coal plants throughout the state, I ask you to please favorably support SB 887 to move Maryland away from these coal plants.

Corey Johns

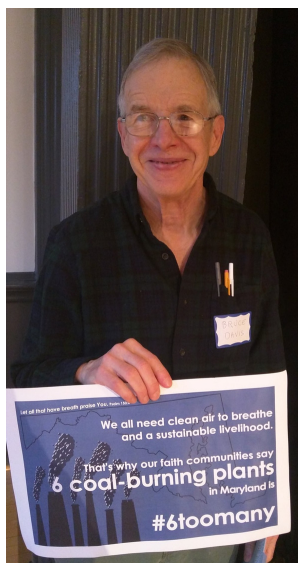
1214 Spring Ave
Baltimore, MD 21237
410-790-6659

InterfaithPower&Light_FAV_SB0887

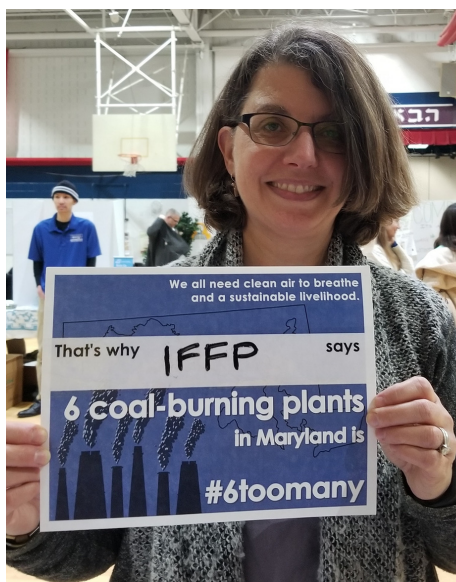
Uploaded by: Lacock-Nisly, Jonathan

Position: FAV

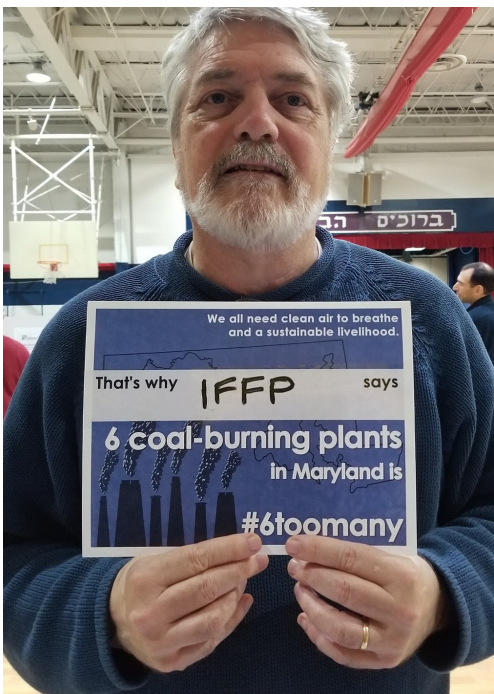
Jonathan Lacock-Nisly
Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)
In support of SB 0887

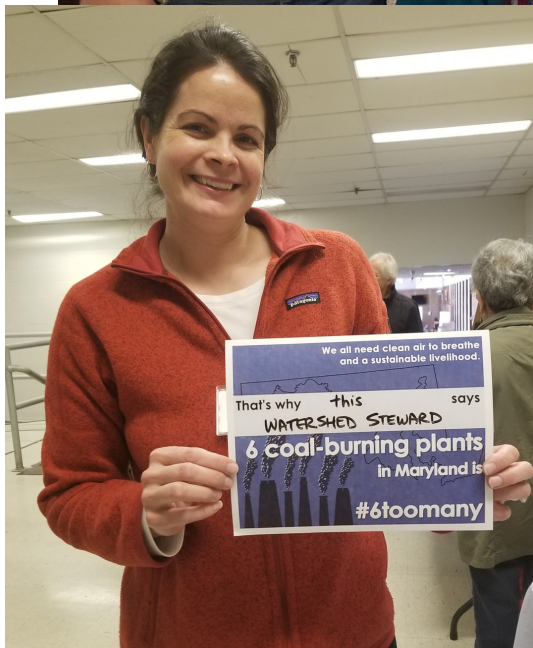


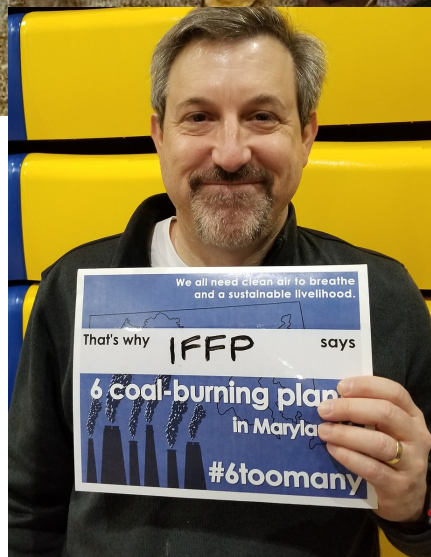
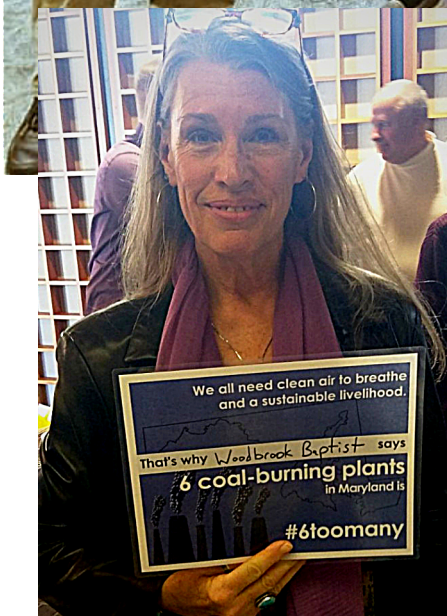
Maryland's Faith Communities Speak Out for a COAL COMMUNITY TRANSITION

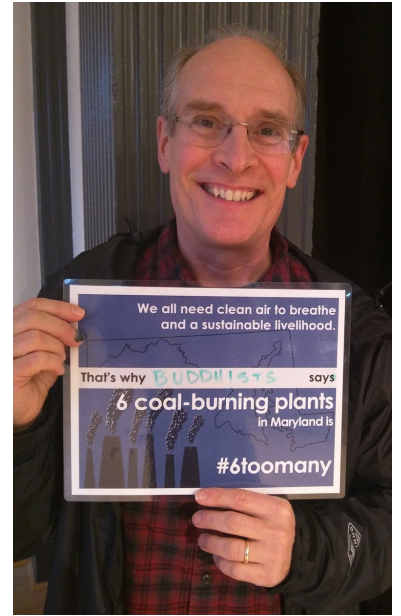
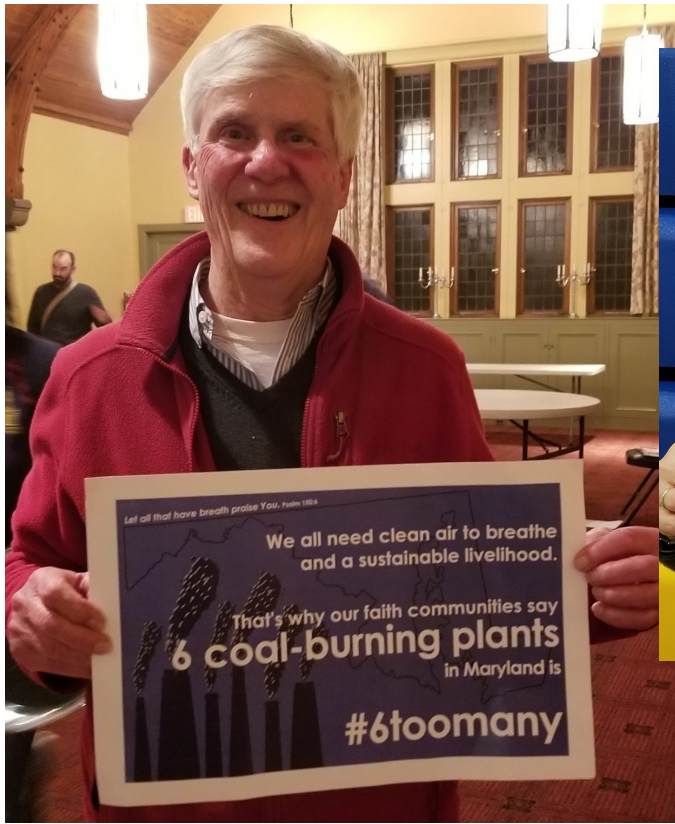


Communities of many faiths across the state, from Rockville to Annapolis and Frederick to Towson, including Bishop Eugene Sutton and members of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland (above), support a just transition off of coal.

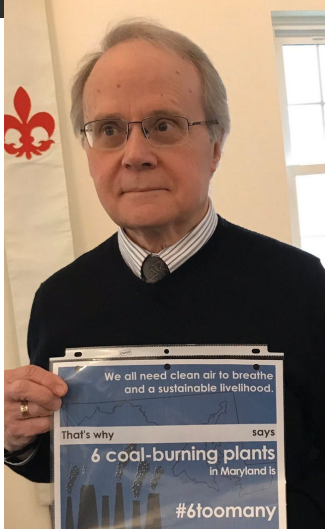


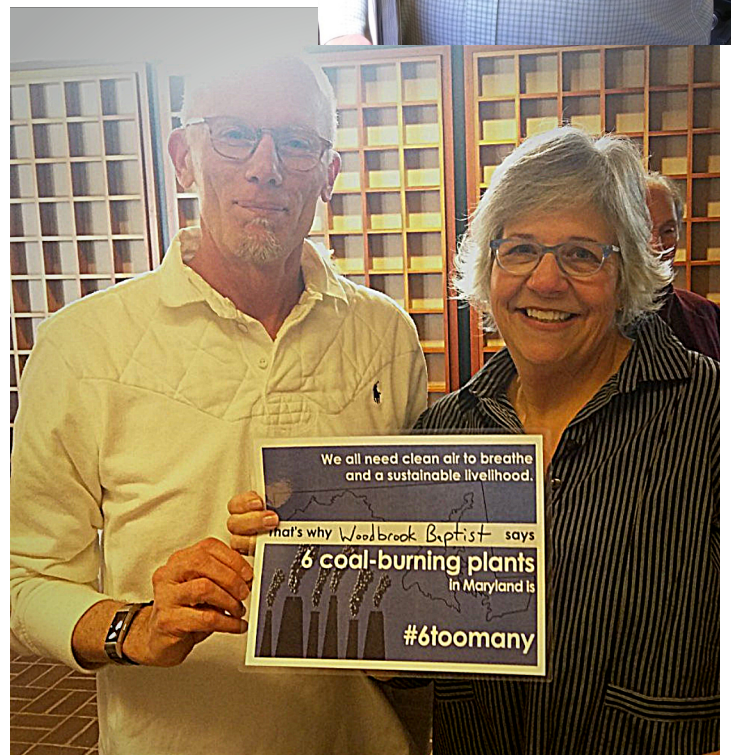
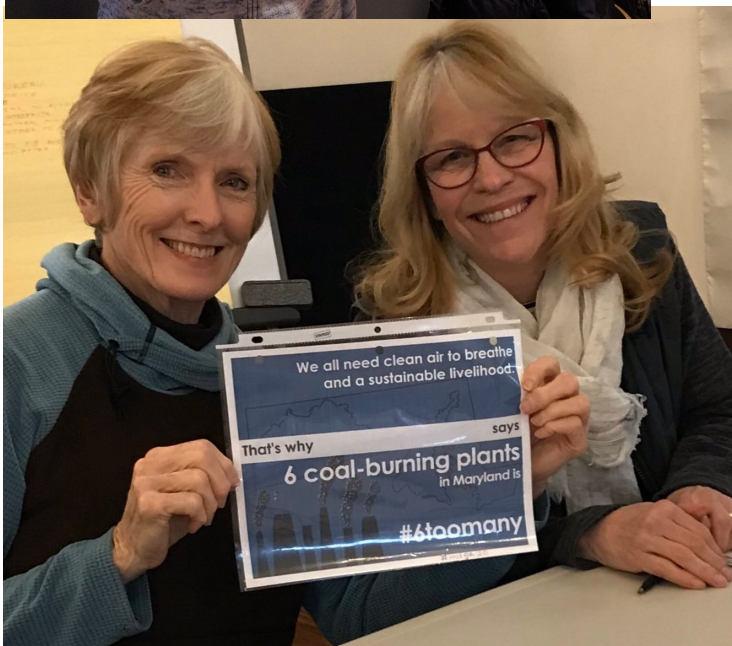
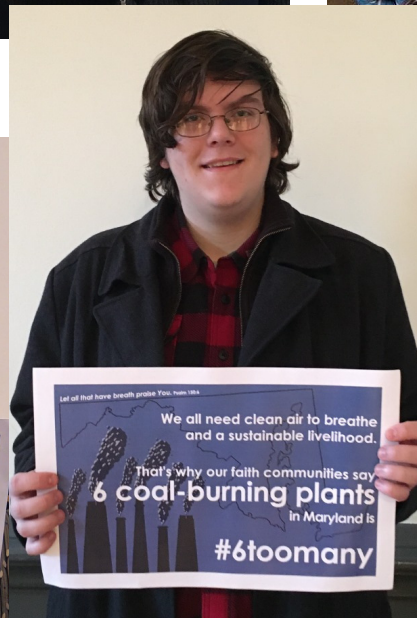
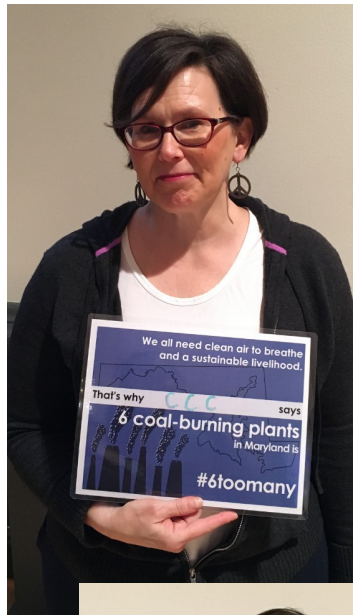
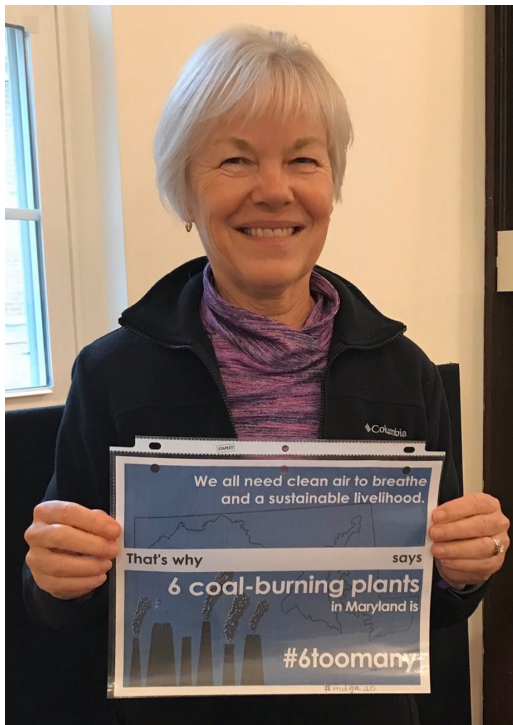


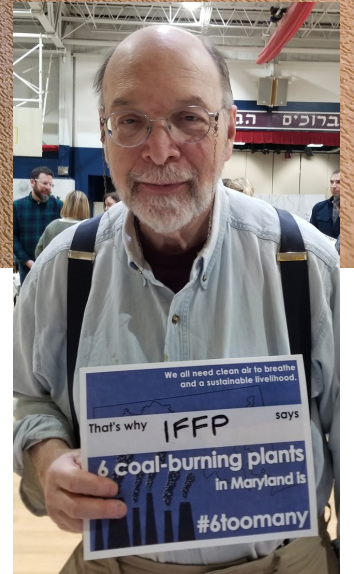




#6toomany







CBF_DougMyers_FAV_SB0887

Uploaded by: Myers, Doug

Position: FAV



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

Senate Bill 887

Electric Generation - Transition From Fossil Fuels - Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account

DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2020

POSITION: SUPPORT

POSITION

Chesapeake Bay Foundation SUPPORTS SB 887 from the Senate Finance Committee. This bill would phase out existing coal-fired power plants in Maryland and limit emissions from natural gas plants. The bill also sets up a fossil fuel transition account for affected communities and establishes an oversight board to distribute grants for worker retraining and other transitions.

COMMENTS

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently released a special report strongly urging the governments to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the next twelve years in order to stabilize the climate at 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial levels.¹

It would be impossible to reach those goals without severely curtailing greenhouse gases from all sources as quickly as possible. Maryland's reliance on coal fired power plants is unsustainable under this context and the State must act quickly to transition away from fossil fuels. SB 887 sets up a reasonable timeline and transition plan.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions also benefits the Bay's water quality by slowing ocean acidification and the deposition of nitrogen oxides, a potent source of nitrogen pollution to the Bay.

CONCLUSION

For these reasons, CBF urges a FAVORABLE report from the Committee on SB 887. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Doug Myers, Maryland Senior Scientist at 443.482.2168 or dmyers@cbf.org

¹ <https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments/>

Maryland Office • Philip Merrill Environmental Center • 6 Herndon Avenue • Annapolis • Maryland • 21403
Phone (410) 268-8816 • Fax (410) 280-3513

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 107,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.

MDLCV_FAV_SB887

Uploaded by: Palencia-Calvo, Ramon

Position: FAV



MARYLAND LEAGUE
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

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30C West Street.
Annapolis, MD 21401
www.mdlcv.org

February 25, 2020

SUPPORT SB887: Electric Generation – Transition From Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account

Dear Chairwoman Kelley, Chairman Pinsky, and members of the Committees:

Maryland League of Conservation Voters strongly urges your support of SB887: Electric Generation – Transition from Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account, and we thank Senator West for his leadership on this issue. SB887 and its House cross-file are priorities of Maryland LCV and of the Citizen's Campaign for the Environment (CCE), a table of 30 organizations working on statewide environmental policy.

Last year, the General Assembly showed leadership and vision in passing the Clean Energy Jobs Act, requiring 50% of our state's energy to be derived from renewable energy sources by the year 2030. Your actions last year were important, and bold, and set our state on the path to the forefront of climate policy nationwide. We are all grateful for your work. This year there are several ambitious bills being presented that would make our state a leader in climate legislation. SB887 is one of these important legislative actions, recognizing that as we elevate the clean energy technologies of wind and solar, we must also move away from dirty energy sources, including coal.

The health and environmental imperatives of this bill are clear: 88% of Marylanders live in counties unable to meet the clean air standards set by the EPA, leading to significant negative health impacts, especially in communities of color. Additionally, the six remaining coal-fired power plants are the second leading source of Maryland's in-state climate pollution. If we are to do our part in addressing the climate crisis, and protecting the health of our communities, we must close our last remaining coal-burning plants.

The imperative, however, also lies in ensuring that the workers and communities that rely on the jobs these plants provide are protected against the economic devastation of plant closings without an adequate and just transition. This is why SB 887 creates a worker and community transition fund to help transition current union workers with good, family supporting jobs into new, good, family sustaining jobs. This is an essential component to the success of this bill.

Maryland LCV strongly supports this important legislation and urges a favorable report.

ROTHSCHILD_FAV_SB887

Uploaded by: Rothschild, Trip

Position: FAV



Barbara Noveau, Executive Director, DoTheMostGood—Montgomery Country

Committee: Finance

Testimony on: SB887 - Electric Generation – Transition From Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 25, 2020

Bill Contact: Senator Chris West

To: The Honorable Delores G. Kelly, Chair, Finance Committee, and Committee Members

DoTheMostGood—Montgomery Country (DTMG) is a progressive grassroots organization with more than 1600 members who live in a wide range of communities from Bethesda near the DC line north to Germantown and beyond, and from Potomac east to Silver Spring and Olney. DTMG supports legislation and activities that keep its members healthy and safe in a clean environment. Burning coal to make electricity is a dirty, 19th century technology that is a leading contributor to air pollution, water pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions in Maryland. Eighty-eight percent of Marylanders live in counties unable to meet clean air smog standards set by the US Environmental Protection Agency. DTMG strongly supports SB887 to transition Maryland away from burning coal for electricity because SB887 will lead to improved health, cleaner air, and cleaner water for all of Maryland's residents, and it will help address climate change.

Air pollution from coal-fired power plants is linked to asthma, cancer, heart and lung ailments, neurological problems, increased annual health costs, and premature deaths. Coal-fired power plants release toxins, such as arsenic, lead, mercury, selenium, nitrogen oxides (NOx), sulfur dioxides (SO₂), volatile organic compounds which form ozone, and carbon monoxide as well as particulate matter (PM) into the air. Once these pollutants enter the air from coal plant stacks, they can disperse and cause harm over large areas. Lead and mercury are neurotoxins, particularly for children. Mercury released from power plants settles into the environment, spreading into groundwater and entering our food chain. Maryland is one of the 49 states in the US with fish consumption advisories due to high mercury concentrations in freshwater bodies. NOx compounds and SO₂ cause smog, irritate lung tissue, and exacerbate asthma; they also contribute to acid rain, which damages crops and acidifies lakes and streams. Since it can penetrate deep into the lungs, PM, better known as "soot," is linked to chronic bronchitis, aggravated asthma, stroke, heart attacks, and premature death. Air pollution from coal-fired power plants also disproportionately affects lower income and minority communities. For example, the Brandon Shores Generating Station and the H. A. Wagner Generating Station are co-located on the same site, polluting the same community, in northern Anne Arundel County just south of the Baltimore City border.

Coal-fired power plants also cause water pollution in Maryland. Coal plants are the number one source of toxic pollution in the nation's waterways, and coal ash has contaminated groundwater at nearly every coal-fired power plant site in the country. Five of Maryland's six coal-fired power plants

operated for years with expired water discharge permits and water pollution standards that dated to the 1980s. In 2018, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) finalized water pollution permits for the Morgantown Generating Station near Newburg, the Chalk Point Generating Station near Aquasco, and the Dickerson Generating Station in Montgomery County; these facilities will now be required to install pollution control measures to reduce discharge of dangerous coal byproducts into waterways that feed into the Chesapeake Bay, the Potomac River, and the Patuxent River by November 1, 2020. However, even with the updated permits, the plants are still among the largest polluters in the state. Although the 2018 permits follow EPA guidance, they do not preclude the dumping of toxic coal by-product pollutants, such as arsenic, selenium and mercury, into our waterways, and the Trump Administration has moved to free power plants from regulations that keep our water clean. The other three coal plants in Maryland are operating without modern pollution controls that provide a safeguard for smog-forming nitrogen oxides.

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from coal-fired power plants, including CO₂, methane, and NO_x, are also significant contributors to climate change. In 2017, the six coal burning power plants in Maryland emitted GHG equivalent to more than 2 million cars, which is more than 40% of the passenger vehicles on the road in Maryland. In 2018, the Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC) recommended that the state develop and implement a coal community transition plan for a just and responsible environmental and economic transition away from coal in Maryland's electricity sector. Communities with coal plants and workers must be included in developing the strategies and programs that will launch them into the clean energy economy and ensure protection of their families and interests. These plans must allow impacted industry and union workers to receive access to training programs and clean energy-related economic opportunities that provide good-paying, family-sustaining, union jobs. New York and Washington state have developed and implemented coal community transition plans, and initiatives are moving forward in many other states, such as Montana and Colorado.

Since the MCC recommendation in 2018, scientists from around the world have issued increasingly urgent warnings about the causes and dangers of climate change due to man-made GHG emissions. Emission of GHG must be significantly reduced in the next decade in order to meet the pressing reality of climate change. SB887 addresses this need by phasing in a requirement that CO₂ emissions from Maryland's six coal-fired power plants shall not exceed 180 pounds of CO₂ per million BTUs of energy produced. The phasing starts with Maryland's oldest coal-fired plants, Chalk Point, Dickerson, and H.A. Wagner, in 2023, followed by the Morgantown plant in 2024, the Brandon Shores plant in 2025, and the Warrior Run plant in 2030. Although it is theoretically possible that carbon-capture technologies could be developed and installed in the plants to meet this limit, such technologies are not currently available, and in reality, SB887 will result in the phased closure of Maryland's remaining coal-fired power plants. The proposed phasing provides time to plan and ensures that the electric grid and affected communities can adjust to the closures gradually. SB887 also includes retraining, retirement assistance, and wage-gap assistance to individuals transitioning from employment at the retiring coal-fired plants, to ease the burden on affected families and communities.

There is strong support across Maryland for eliminating the state's reliance on coal-fired power plants. A poll of Maryland voters in October, 2019, showed widespread support among Democrats, Republicans, and independents in all regions of the state for a transition to clean energy sources, and for state-sponsored programs to retrain people who work in coal plants and hold harmless the jurisdictions that rely on the plants for tax revenues. Survey respondents not only saw the benefit to the environment of transitioning away from coal, but for utility rates, jobs and the economy, and reliability of the electric grid.

Coal-fired generation of electricity in Maryland is already declining significantly; in 2017, Maryland's in-state coal plants provided only about 13% of the state's gross electricity consumption. Under the terms of the 2019 Clean Energy Jobs Act, which will double renewable fuel use in the state by 2030, there should be enough energy generated by renewables to make coal essentially obsolete by the mid-2020's. SB887 is the missing piece of the puzzle to put Maryland on a path to cleaner air, cleaner water, and a healthier population by severely limiting GHG emissions from or retiring Maryland's six remaining dirty coal-fired power plants.

Therefore, DTMG strongly supports SB887 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Noveau
Executive Director, DoTheMostGood
Barbara@dtmg.org
240-338-3048

SB 887_MoCo_Samman_SUPPORT

Uploaded by: Samman, Amy

Position: FAV



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

SB 887

DATE: February 25, 2020

SPONSOR: Senator West, et al.

ASSIGNED TO: Finance

CONTACT PERSON: Amy Samman (amy.samman@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: SUPPORT

Electric Generation – Transition From Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account

Senate Bill 887 establishes a cap on carbon dioxide emissions for the six existing electric generating stations in the State that burn coal. The bill also establishes a Fossil Fuel Community Transition Account and advisory board within the Department of Commerce to provide grants for individuals and communities affected by the transition from fossil fuels and the retirement of electric generating units.

Montgomery County supports Senate Bill 887. This bill requires the Dickerson coal-fired electric generating station located in Montgomery County to comply with the carbon dioxide emissions cap by October 1, 2023.

In 2017, the Montgomery County Council declared a climate emergency calling on all levels of government to “initiate a massive global mobilization to restore a safe climate and build a sustainable economy” and “transform the climate by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2027 and reaching 100% elimination by 2035, and initiate large-scale efforts to remove excess carbon from the atmosphere.” Coal-fired power plants generate a significant amount of the total greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity sector in Maryland. This bill will assist the County in achieving its target of eliminating greenhouse gas emissions entirely.

For the foregoing reasons, Montgomery County respectfully requests a favorable Committee report on Senate Bill 887.

COALINFO_FAV_SB887

Uploaded by: Senator West, Senator West

Position: FAV

November 19, 2019

To whom it may concern:

As the nation-wide trend of moving our power sector beyond coal continues to gain momentum, we, the below-signed organizations and community leaders, call on Maryland state officials to, by the end of 2020, establish a specific and equitable plan to transition completely away from coal-fired power plants by 2025.

Maryland remains home to six large coal-fired power plants contributing to public health problems, climate disruption, and environmental degradation. Power plants that burn coal pump out toxic and dangerous pollution like lead, mercury, selenium, smog-forming nitrogen oxides, and acid rain-causing sulfur pollution. Eighty-eight percent of Marylanders live in Counties not meeting clean air smog standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency. Breathing smog is like getting a sunburn on your lungs and exacerbates respiratory issues like asthma – an illness impacting hundreds of thousands of Marylanders, including a disproportionate amount of the state's people of color.

It is clearly time for Maryland to prepare for the transition away from coal-fired power plants. We must support communities overburdened by coal pollution and impacted workers in defining, creating and implementing strategies that provide certainty for transition timelines. The local communities that are home to both the coal plants and many of the plant workers must be a part of developing the strategies and programs that will strengthen the health of their community and local economy. These plans must allow impacted industry and current union workers to receive access to training programs and economic opportunities that provide good-paying, family-sustaining, union jobs and the worker's right to unionize must be protected.

Maryland is not alone in the need for a just transition from coal. Places like New York and Washington state have developed and implemented coal community transition plans, and initiatives are moving forward in many other states like Montana and Colorado. Maryland must lead on this issue and develop a plan to provide communities and our workforce with certainty and specificity on this transition away from coal.

Maryland's reliance on coal-powered electricity is on a steep decline, but Marylanders continue to face significant environmental harms from coal plants, and these will continue until they stop polluting our air and water, we must recognize and prepare for the potential near-term economic impacts for fossil fuel communities. Maryland needs a plan to responsibly guide us off of coal in the next decade and ensure our workers and impacted communities are making decisions about how to thrive in the clean energy economy.

We urge your leadership on this important public health, economic, and environmental issue.

Respectfully,

1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East

350 Baltimore

350 Montgomery County

Audubon Maryland-DC

Baltimore County Progressive Democrats Club

Baltimore Jewish Council

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

Environmental Justice Ministry

Central Maryland Beekeepers Association

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility

Climate Law & Policy Project

Climate XChange

College Democrats of Towson University

Earth Forum of Howard County

Earthjustice

Elders Climate Action

Environmental Justice Ministry Cedar Lane Unitarian
Universalist Church

Food & Water Action

Friends of St Clements Bay

Glen Echo Heights Mobilization

Green Towson Alliance

Greenbelt Climate Action Network

Indivisible Central Maryland

IndivisibleHoCoMD

Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake

Karie Firoozmand

Kittamaqundi Community Church

League of Women Voters of Maryland

League of Women Voters of Maryland -
Environmental Committee

Loyola Maryland Environmental Action Club

Maryland Conservation Council

Maryland High School Democrats of America

Maryland League of Conservation Voters

Maryland Legislative Coalition

Maryland United for Peace and Justice

MOM's Organic Market

Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate
Solutions

Montgomery County Young Democrats

North Baltimore County Democratic Club

Nuclear Information and Resource Service

Prince George's County Peace & Justice
Coalition

Safe Skies Maryland

Sierra Club Maryland

Students of Sustainability

Sunrise Movement

Sunrise Movement Howard County

Sunrise Movement Towson

Takoma Park Mobilization Environment
Committee

Towson Unitarian Universalist Church Green
Sanctuary Committee

UMBC Students for Environmental Awareness

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia,
MD

Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of
Maryland

Waterkeepers Chesapeake

WEST_FAV_SB887

Uploaded by: Senator West, Senator West

Position: FAV

CHRIS WEST
Legislative District 42
Baltimore County

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Vice Chair, Baltimore County
Senate Delegation



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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February 25, 2020

Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Delores G. Kelley
3 East Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

RE: SB 887 – Electric Generation – Transition from Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account

Dear Chairman Kelley and Members of the Committee:

This bill is a significant bill. It establishes a carbon dioxide emissions limit for all six of the remaining coal-burning electrical generating facilities in Maryland that is so low that none of the facilities will be able to qualify. Therefore, it provides for the permanent phase-out of burning coal in Maryland to generate electricity.

The burning of coal is a 19th Century technology which is far and away the dirtiest way of generating electricity. It fouls the air, and it is one of the principal causes of global warming. As a matter of public policy, this bill ensures that the era of coal furnaces belching carbon into the air in Maryland will come to an end.

Three of the six remaining coal burning electrical generating plants in Maryland are Chalk Point Units 1 and 2 on the Patuxent River in Prince George's County, Dickerson Units 1, 2 and 3 on the Potomac River in northern Montgomery County and H. A. Wagner Units 2 and 3 on the Patapsco River in northern Anne Arundel County. The bill provides that all of these units will be governed by the cap and therefore have to stop burning coal on October 1, 2023. The fourth remaining coal burning electrical generating plant is Morgantown Units 1 and 2 on the Potomac River in Charles County. The bill provides that these units will fall under the cap on October 1, 2024. The fifth remaining coal burning electrical generating plant is Brandon Shores units 1 and 2 on the Patapsco River in northern Anne Arundel County. These units will be covered by the cap starting on October 1, 2025. The sixth remaining coal burning electrical generating plant is Warrior Run unit 1 in Cumberland. An agreement was reached with Warrior Run, providing for Warrior Run to cease burning coal as of March 1, 2030.

Of course, the closure of the coal-burning furnaces in these facilities will have a major impact on the workforce at the plants, so the rest of Senate Bill 887 (from pages 3 through 10) deals with extensive measures to provide a fair transition for the employees. The bill creates a Fossil Fuel Community Transition Account with the mission of providing grants to support both the

individuals transitioning out of employment at one of the six coal-fired plants and also the communities impacted by the closure of the coal boilers. The grants are to be used for: (a) worker retraining, (b) union-sponsored apprenticeship programs, (c) clean energy projects in the affected counties, (d) (for up to three years after the closure of a coal-burning plant) payments to an affected county to offset losses in tax revenue due to the closure, (e) payments to individuals who are within three years of retirement age and (f) payments to individuals to fill wage gaps during the transition to new employment. These payments of approximately \$13 million per year will come from a dedicated, protected funding stream from the existing Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Program, which is funded by the sale of allowances under the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

Let me speak briefly about why this bill makes sense. The six coal plants that are the subject of this bill are the #2 source of in-state climate pollution in Maryland. In 2017, Maryland's six coal plants generated over 75% of the state's climate pollution from in-state electricity generators.

Coal-burning electrical generating plants are on their way out across the nation. Over 300 coal plants have closed or announced their retirement in recent years. Here in Maryland, the C. P. Crane coal plant closed in 2017. One of the two units at the H. A. Wagner plant is scheduled to close this summer. In 2015, 5 units at the Chalk Point and Dickerson plants were slated for deactivation, only to be reprieved in 2017.

I understand the opponents of this bill are prepared to make three major arguments, so let me preview them and respond to them. First, they plan to argue that Maryland needs the six coal-burning plants, that we might experience blackouts without them. Well, the dirty little secret is that Maryland's coal plants sit idle nearly the entire year. So far this year, not a single one of the six coal plants has operated for a single day. Last year, the best information available to us is that they operated for a grand total of 17 days out of 365 days. So what's going on? The regional electrical transmission system known as PJM has contracted with them to just standby. PJM pays all of the overhead associated with keeping full workforces on hand at each of the six plants. The plant operators therefore have their overhead paid for the 348 days when the plants are idle, and on the 17 days when the boilers in the plants are fired up, the plant operators make some profits. But their profits are meager. I submit to you that keeping six plants fully staffed year-round at a cost of millions of dollars so they can operate only 17 days a year is not a sustainable model.

And that brings me to the second argument that the opponents will make, namely that the workers in these plants need their jobs. But if you agree with me that the current model is not sustainable, something's going to give. Burning coal is far more expensive these days than other ways of creating electricity. All six of these plants are surely going to close. Whether they close on the sort of schedule envisioned by this bill or just close abruptly due to corporate decision-making, they are going to close. This bill bends over backwards to create a fund of money to pay for transition expenses. If the bill fails and no such fund is set up, when the plants close, whether tomorrow or three years from now, the employees will be left high and dry, without any financial support as they seek to transition to new jobs.

Finally, the third argument that will be made by the opponents is that this bill should be consigned to summer study and then brought back next year. Remember that one of the operating boilers is already slated to close this summer. Others could follow suit. The groundwork for this bill was laid in 2018, when GenOn, one of the plant operators, laid off 60 workers. In 2019, legislators began discussions about legislation that would protect the workers in the plants, but the legislation was deferred after assurances were given that talks would continue last summer. Not through want of trying, this didn't occur. So this bill is needed now to create the fund and start to fund it so that as these plants close, money is available to provide for the transition needs of the workers and the surrounding communities.

There are a couple of modest amendments that we will be offering to improve the bill. Members of the panel will describe them.

I hope the Committee will issue a favorable report on this bill.

SIERRACLUB_FAV_SB887

Uploaded by: Smednick, David

Position: FAV



7338 Baltimore Ave
Suite 102
College Park, MD 20740

Committee: Finance
Testimony on: SB887 “Electric Generation - Transition From Fossil Fuels - Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account”
Position: Support
Hearing Date: February 25, 2020

The Maryland Sierra Club urges a Favorable report on this legislation, one of our priority bills for this session. Working with the Sponsor, we anticipate the offering of additional amendments that are intended to respond to some concerns raised by stakeholders, which do not alter the legislation’s purpose or essential effect.

The planet is facing a climate crisis and the response from Maryland and other wealthy nations must be immediate and ambitious. In this regard, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s 2018 report concluded that, in order to minimize the impacts of devastating global climate change, it is abundantly clear that **wealthy nations like the United States must end coal burning for power by no later than 2030.**¹

This legislation manages the fundamental need for our state to transition off of coal by setting clear end-dates for the cessation of coal-burning at our power plants and, critically, establishes and funds a workforce and community transition account to support workers and communities who will be impacted by this transition. The bill is based on science, modeled on transition legislation and plans from other states, incorporates input from important constituencies, and implements some of the most critical best practices of “just transition” identified by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

Specifically, MDE found in its research that best practices for the transition off of fossil fuels include²:

- “providing a timeline for the phase-out of activities.”;
- “creating worker training programs that facilitate the transfer of employees to new jobs”;
- “providing a transition oversight body”; and
- “funding of the transition.”

This legislation implements these best practices. The legislation sets enforceable limits for carbon dioxide pollution emissions for each of Maryland’s remaining coal-fired power plants that translate to a cessation of burning coal at the facilities. It also annually allocates 20% of the proceeds from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative to fund and establish a coal workforce and community transition account intended to support constituencies impacted by the transition off fossil fuels like coal. The account will be governed by impacted stakeholders. Its funds will be eligible to be used for paid worker retraining and financial support; investment in climate action projects in impacted communities; site deactivation, reuse, and remediation projects that hire from the high-quality workforce now employed at the plants; and support for portions of lost property tax revenues.

¹ <https://climateanalytics.org/publications/2019/coal-phase-out-insights-from-the-ipcc-special-report-on-15c-and-global-trends-since-2015/>

²

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Air/ClimateChange/Documents/2019GGRAPlan/Appendices/Appendix%20I%20-%20Just%20Transition.pdf>

The remainder of this testimony concisely summarizes the urgent need for the General Assembly to proactively manage the transition off of coal by setting firm dates for facility transition and by funding support for impacted workers and communities.

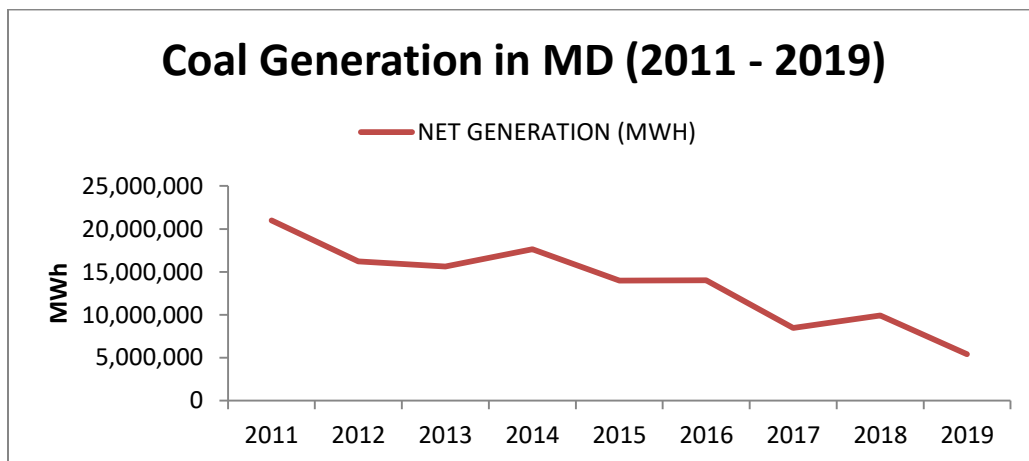
Coal-fired power is a health- and climate-harming 19th century technology. It is facing a precipitous decline across the country:

- Since 2010, over 300 coal plants have retired or announced formal plans for facility deactivation.
- Since 2007, coal generation has declined by nearly half.
- From 2018 to 2019, coal generation experienced its largest annual decline in generation in history.

Maryland has six coal-fired power plants. Notwithstanding their severe decline in electricity generation, the facilities remain an outsized and major contributor to pollution in the state.

Coal Plant Name	County	Age
Warrior Run	Allegany County	20
Brandon Shores	Anne Arundel County	36
Morgantown	Charles County	50
Chalk Point	Prince George's County	56
Dickerson	Montgomery County	61
H.A. Wagner	Anne Arundel County	61

- Four of Maryland's six coal plants are over the average age of facility retirement announcement and/or physical deactivation (49 years and 52 years, respectively).
- Coal-fired electricity generation has declined by 75% from 2011 through Nov 2019.



- In 2017 MDE, conducted its most recent official Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and found that Maryland **coal plants are responsible for 75% of the climate pollution from in-state**

power generators, despite generating less than 14% of the gross electricity consumed in the state.³

- In 2019, the six coal plants emitted **nearly 5,500 tons of dangerous sulfur dioxide pollution**, compared to just under 225 tons from the other 36 power units located in Maryland which have sulfur dioxide emission records in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Air Markets Program database.
- In 2019 the six coal plants emitted nearly **2,700 tons of smog-forming nitrogen oxides**.
 - Breathing smog is like getting sunburn on your lungs and over **85% of Marylanders live in counties that are failing to meet federal Clean Air Act healthy air standards for smog.**
- Plant discharge data shows numerous **discharges of toxic pollution like mercury, selenium, and arsenic which exceed the limits set forth in the EPA's Effluent Limitation Guidelines**, finalized in 2015.

The pollution from Maryland's coal plants is not distributed equitably.

- In a report issued by the NAACP, the Indigenous Environmental Network, and the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization, **four of Maryland's six coal plants received a D or F grade for their inequitable impact on health outcomes in low income communities and communities of color.**
- There are 167 plants which were scored in the report and which remain online or without formal plans to retire. Of those 167, Maryland's scored plants are all in the top 50 of worst performers:
 - Brandon Shores – 24th worst
 - Warrior Run – 29th worst
 - H.A. Wagner – 36th worst
 - Morgantown – 48th worst

Maryland needs an enforceable plan to manage the transition off coal.

- Without an enforceable plan for the cessation of coal burning, we are placing our workers and communities at risk.
- Maryland's grid operator, PJM, only requires 90 days notice before facility deactivation, which is not enough time to properly prepare for potential layoffs or loss of property taxes for a local government.
- As documented in numerous reports and case studies, the loss of a facility that employs dozens of workers and provides a historic economic structure for a community can be very disruptive. A proactive plan will reduce the disruption and provide pathways for additional investment in the impacted communities.

Maryland does not need to, nor should it, rely on coal-fired power for grid services.

- Two of Maryland's coal-fired power plants, Chalk Point and Dickerson, previously filed for a 2017 deactivation date with the grid operator, whose analysis revealed that any necessary grid upgrades were "expected to be completed in time for the units to deactivate as scheduled."
- The PJM grid has approximately 13,000 MW of excess capacity above its self-imposed requirements to meet peak summer load.

³ This is based on data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration's Electric Power Monthly Reports and the 2017 MDE Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory.



7338 Baltimore Ave
Suite 102
College Park, MD 20740

- The electricity generated by Maryland coal plants can be replaced by the clean energy that will be deployed as a result of the Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – in 2019, coal generation in Maryland was approximately 5.5 million MWh, and the requirements expected for Maryland offshore wind and solar in Maryland is nearly 10 million MWh (via the sale of Renewable Energy Credits) in 2025.

Maryland is not alone in planning a transition beyond coal.

- New Mexico's recent Energy Transition Act moved forward with securitization efforts to aid the transition off coal and provided financial support for impacted workers and communities
- New York, a partner state in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, managed the transition off of coal by instituting a carbon dioxide emission rate that coal cannot meet and established a community transition account. The account allows local communities facing tax-base loss to apply for funds to help fill the gap of that tax-base loss.
- Washington state passed legislation in 2011 to manage the deactivation of the Centralia coal plant by setting firm dates for the boiler deactivations and establishment of a community transition account to invest in workers and community development in the impacted area.
- The Virginia legislature has passed climate action legislation out of both chambers that includes the date-certain of facility deactivation across the coal-fired power plant fleet.

The General Assembly has an opportunity through this legislation to bring together critical stakeholders in the state – industry, labor leaders, community leaders, environmental leaders, local officials, and more – to establish a cohesive plan that manages the real-world decline of our coal-fired power plants.

Please move favorably on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Josh Tulkin
Director
Sierra Club Maryland Chapter

David Smedick
Senior Campaign Representative
Sierra Club

NEKIYA_FAV_SB887

Uploaded by: Stevnson, Nekiya

Position: FAV

February 24, 2020

Support: SB 887

Dear Maryland General Assembly.

My name is Nekiya Stevenson im a 5th grader at highland park

I am writing today to discuss the dangers of Coal-Fired Power Plants.

Today im at Highland park elementary

What is coal?: a black or brownish-black solid combustible substance formed by the partial decomposition of vegetable matter without free access of air and under the influence of moisture and often increased pressure and temperature that is widely used as a natural fuel.

Why is it used?Coal is primarily used as fuel to generate electric power in the United States. The coal is burned and the heat given off is used to convert water into steam, which drives a turbine.

Why is it bad?The burning of fossil fuels releases greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, increasing levels of CO₂ and other gasses, trapping heat, and contributing to global climate change. ... Coal-fired power plants release more greenhouse gases per unit of energy produced than any other electricity source (1).

What bill are they voting on and how should they vote? Not all votes are recorded, such as when there is no one opposed. This page shows the outcome of ... floor and House floor. It does not include votes in committee. Track Votes. Get an email every time Congress votes on a bill or other matter.

Sincerely, Nekiya

WEINSTEIN_FAV_SB887

Uploaded by: Weinstein, Sandra

Position: FAV

Dear Maryland General Assembly

Today was a nice day but I have Asthma and had to stay in at Recess. I used my inhaler at home. Please Clean up the air it hurts to breath sometimes.

Taylor

Dear Maryland General Assembly

I have Asthma, its Really
Hard And Scary sometimes. Please
close the coal plants AND MAKE
the air I Breathe cleaner.

I Am hoping you will vote
to clean up my Air quick.

Max

Highland Park

February 24,2020

Dear Maryland General Assembly,

My name is Alaysha Barnes. I am a 5th grader from Highland Park Elementary.I am writing to you out of concern for the coal plants currently in Maryland.

I am writing today to discuss the closing of coal fire plants. Coal is one of the most important primary fuels. It's a solid carbon-rich material.Coal is primarily used as a fuel to generate electric power.We also use coal to cook on a grill.Coal is bad because it causes humans and living things to become ill.

It can cause a stroke,lung cancer,and be harmful to elders.I have asthma and coal can make my asthma worse.My grandma is a elder and I would love for her to live as long as possible.When we have coal plants it makes her have strokes and problems breathing.In other states there is another material than coal and it is healthier.

United States needs a healthy environment for our people to live in.Everyday there is people dying of strokes and lung cancer.Also people are dying from asthma attacks.We as a unit and a State we need to change to help our people.I have a sister who has an inhaler because of asthma attacks and asthma.All I ask is you to help our State and unit

Sincerely,
Alaysha Barnes

JASIELLE_FAV_SB887

Uploaded by: Williams, Jasielle

Position: FAV

February 24, 2020

Support: SB 887

Dear Maryland General Assembly,

My name is jasielle williams. I am a 5th grader from Highland Park Elementary in Prince George's County. . I am writing about the Coal-Fired Power Plants. Coal can cause problems for people with respiratory problems. I am writing to discuss because burning coal can because I am a student with asthma and it can really damage my lungs caused by coal pollution.

I am writing today to discuss the dangers of Coal-Fired Power Plants.

Sincerely,

Jasielle williams

BaltimoreCounty_FWA_SB0887

Uploaded by: Byrne, Julia

Position: FWA



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

CHARLES R. CONNER III, ESQ.
Chief Legislative Officer

KIMBERLY S. ROUTSON
Deputy Legislative Officer

JOEL N. BELLER
Assistant Legislative Officer

BILL NO.: SB 887

TITLE: Electric Generation - Transition From Fossil Fuels - Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account

SPONSOR: Senator West

COMMITTEE: Finance

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 25, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 887 – Electric Generation - Transition From Fossil Fuels - Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account. This bill would prohibit the carbon dioxide emissions rate for Maryland’s coal-fired power plants from exceeding a certain amount and establish the Fossil Fuel Community Transition Account to provide grants to affected communities.

There are few issues more pressing than climate change. Maryland must take bold steps to address this existential threat, including reassessing how its energy is generated. Coal plants are the second biggest in-state source of emissions from the power sector, generating over 75% of climate pollution from in-state generators. The devastating health effects of these emissions are well documented, and Baltimore County residents regularly experience smog from coal plants well outside of our borders.

Additionally, coal has become an economically unsustainable energy source. It is critical that Maryland develop a plan to purposefully transition to cleaner energy sources while ensuring impacted workers and communities are not left behind. SB 887 includes significant provisions to ensure affected workers are supported as they transition to jobs in clean energy and other emerging sectors.

Baltimore County urges the State to address climate change while supporting affected communities. SB 887 will help accomplish this goal and create a healthier, more sustainable future.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 887. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, 443-900-6582.

Columbia Gas_FWA_SB887

Uploaded by: Collins, Carville

Position: FWA



A NiSource Company

800 N 3rd Street, Suite 204
Harrisburg, PA 17102

SUPPORT With Amendment Senate Bill 877

Underground Facilities Damages Prevention — Revision

February 25, 2020

Senate Finance Committee

Columbia Gas of Maryland, ("Columbia"), providing natural gas utility distribution service to some 33,000 customers residing in Garrett, Allegany and Washington Counties, supports SB 877 with amendment. Periodic updating and improving of Maryland's underground facilities law at Title 12 of the Public Utilities Article has proven essential to the protection of underground utility facilities from construction activities occurring in and around those facilities. SB 877 is another good faith effort to continue to protect the integrity of those facilities, while staying up to date with ever-evolving construction, facility marking and Miss Utility One-Call activities.

Columbia offers an amendment to enhance clarity in the legislation. New language at page 25, line 25, directs the Damage Prevention Authority, when determining the amount of a civil penalty for a violation, to consider "the seriousness of the violation." Columbia submits that this language is vague and may lead to arbitrary or unpredictable civil penalty amounts. Columbia recommends that the language in line 25 be struck and replaced with:

**"(I) THE DEGREE OF INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE CAUSED
BY THE VIOLATION;"**

With this amendment, Columbia urges a favorable report on SB 877.

Contact:
Carville Collins
(410) 580-4125
carville.collins@dlapiper.com

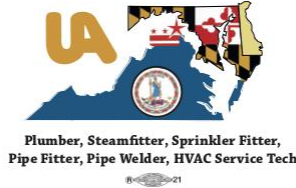
Contact:
Peter Trufahnestock
(717) 903-8674
ptrufahnestock@nisource.com

MAPT_UNF_SB887

Uploaded by: Ascher, Jason

Position: UNF

Mid Atlantic Pipe Trades Association



Maryland Senate – Senate Finance Committee

TO: Delores Kelley, Chair; Brian Feldman, Vice Chair; and Member of the Senate Finance Committee
FROM: Jason Ascher, Political Director – Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

Oppose SB 887 – Electric Generation – Transition from Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association and it's over seven thousand members from United Association Locals across the state, I ask that you OPPOSE SB 887.

While we understand the need to start moving off fossil fuels, we believe that this must happen on a realistic timeline and that many things need to get taken into consideration. A transition is required to ensure that workers and the public are not adversely affected.

First, this legislation will affect the jobs of hardworking Maryland residents. Many of them have worked at these facilities their entire careers and are close to retirement. They are earning good family-sustaining wages, with top health insurance coverage, and a defined benefit pension. It will not only put them out of work, but it does not consider funding to maintain their defined-benefit pensions. You are also not considering that the jobs they can “retrain” for may pay significantly less than what they earned previously.

Second, you need to consider where and how the lost KWh will get made up. In our high technology society, the use of electricity is not likely to decrease. To the best of my knowledge, there has been no decision on Offshore Wind from the Public Service Commission, and large scale solar would require an area of land that has not, to my knowledge, gotten discussed yet. New nuclear or natural gas is not considered to the best of my knowledge but would be the best option in this transition. Keep in mind, that according to an article in Reuters from January 2020, Denmark gets almost half its energy from Wind, which it has been investing in since the 1970's, while the majority of the other 50% still comes from fossil fuels.

Finally, because of all the things considered above, the timeline presented is not realistic. We need to phase in the renewable sources before we start closing the fossil fuel plants. Also, there needs to be consideration into everything that goes into generating all sources, fossil fuel, and renewable. This including how windmills and solar panels are made and disposed of, as well as where they get made before installation (Chinese made solar panels vs. the US-made solar panels.)

For the reasons listed above, I ask that you OPPOSE SB 887 with a favorable report.

Sincerely,
Jason Ascher
Political Director
Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association
7050 Oakland Mills Road, Suite 180
Columbia, MD 21046

IBEW26Clark_UNF_SB887

Uploaded by: Clark, Tom

Position: UNF



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

GEORGE C. HOGAN: Business Manager • THOMAS C. MYERS: President • RICHARD D. WILKINSON: Vice President
JOSEPH F. DABBS: Financial Secretary • RICHARD G. MURPHY: Recording Secretary • PAULO C. HENRIQUES: Treasurer



February 24, 2020

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 887
ELECTRICAL GENERATION-FOSSIL FUEL TRANSITION ACCOUNT
FEBRUARY 25, 2020

To: Hon. Delores G. Kelley, Chair, Hon. Brian J. Feldman, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Finance Committee

From: Thomas Clark, Executive Board, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26

I am writing testimony to ask the committee to please oppose this bill, SB 887. This piece of legislation was put together aimlessly and without thought of the many jobs that will be lost and communities destroyed. I respect this legislative body too much to believe this bill was written by anyone other than a special interest group. As elected leaders I ask that you comb through this bill, consider the major pitfalls. We as citizens of Maryland deserve a better bill than this one.

Maryland is a leader in clean energy. We, and you as leaders should be proud of this distinction. This bill may appear to be a green bill on the surface but does nothing but make us dependent on the electrical grid of boarding states; states like Pennsylvania and West Virginia, who burn, you guessed it, COAL!! Marylanders should continue to strive for way to increase our use of clean energy but it needs to be done in a way that is not reckless and follows a well-conceived plan that does not leave us scrambling to fill our energy needs by relying on any means necessary when our citizen are left with limited energy supply options.

When IBEW was asked about the stipulation in this bill (2-10A-02 (B) that these generating units not exceed an emission rate of 180 pounds per million BTU's we were told that this is an unattainable goal and it was made clear that the ultimate goal was to try and shut down these plants no matter what. IBEW would be given a month to respond with concerns over this bill that took 9 months drawing up. Of course, as you know, 10 days later, without hearing from the IBEW, this bill was dropped in one chamber and then the next.



I ask that you throw this bill out of your committee, ask that a summer study be conducted and restart with a bill that is written in good faith, with attainable goals, with consideration of all factors, including Maryland jobs and one deserving of the great state of Maryland.

I ask you once again, vote unfavorably to this bill SB887.

Thank you,

Tom Clark,
Executive Board IBEW Local 26 and proud Marylander

IBEW24_UNF_SB887

Uploaded by: Demchuk, Pete

Position: UNF

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

AFFILIATED WITH:

CHOICE Building Trades Council — AFL-CIO

Baltimore Port Council

Baltimore Metro Council — AFL-CIO

Central MD Labor Council — AFL-CIO

Del-Mar-Va Labor Council — AFL-CIO

Maryland State - D.C. — AFL-CIO

National Safety Council



AFL-CIO-CLC

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21230

JOHN L. RANKIN, President

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Testimony of

Peter Demchuk, Financial Secretary, IBEW, LOCAL 24

Before the

Finance Committee

On

SB-887— Electric Generation - Transition From Fossil Fuels —
Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account

Strongly Oppose

February 24, 2020

Dear Madam Chair Kelly and Committee Members,

For the record, my name is Peter Demchuk. I am a lifelong resident of Maryland currently residing in District 7 of Baltimore County. I am a 39 year member, and Business Manager, of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 24 located in Baltimore. I represent approximately 2000 hardworking, Maryland tax paying electricians. I started as an apprentice in 1979 and have held numerous positions over the years. The reason I give my background is to show my commitment to not only my profession but to all working men and women in Maryland.

SB-887 is NOT good for my members and other building tradespersons because it would eliminate many construction jobs that we preform maintaining these facilities. I don't see anywhere in the Fossil Fuel Community Transition Account that will address the loss of income to my members. Yes we need to find cleaner ways to generate electricity but the timeline that this bill calls for the elimination of fossil fuel fired powerhouse may be TOO aggressive.

There is no plan cited for the replacement energy source. The average home in the U.S. uses 10,399 KWh annually or 867 kwh per month. MD ranks 20th with 12,372 KWh annually and 1031 KWh per month with 2 out 5 homes using electricity for their main source of heat. The Public Service Commission has delayed a decision on the MD Offshore Wind turbines by six months.

The transition funding cited in the bill is capped at certain limits without any data to support that these finite amounts are sufficient to support the transition of these workers. Especially on the retirement of older workers without subsequent funding to maintain and replenish their defined pension benefits.

Please give SB-887 an unfavorable report.

Thank you,



Peter P. Demchuk

PPD:CLR
AFL-CIO
OPEIU # 2

MDDCAFLCIO_UNF_SB887

Uploaded by: Edwards, Donna

Position: UNF



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AFL-CIO

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President
Donna S. Edwards

Secretary-Treasurer
Gerald W. Jackson

**SB 887 – Electric Generation – Transition from Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions
Rate and Transition Account
Senate Finance Committee
February 25, 2020**

OPPOSE

**Donna S. Edwards
President
Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to SB 887 – Electric Generation – Transition from Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account. My name is Donna S. Edwards and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 340,000 union members I offer the following comments.

Attached to this testimony is the “Resolution on Climate Change and Jobs” that was unanimously passed at the 32nd Biennial Convention of the Maryland State and D.C. AFL-CIO, held in November of 2019. The resolution puts the issue of good job creation in the emerging clean energy sector first and foremost, with an understanding that the path forward must include an inclusive energy portfolio. The entire labor movement in Maryland is committed to ensuring that – as we transition to a cleaner energy sector – workers are not sacrificed on the altar of environmentalism. If we, as a State, are going to make greater strides towards cleaning our energy, we must not put the cart before the horse. We must lead with good jobs, and make the hard decisions necessary to hold harmless the workers that have provided us the energy needed to live, work, and play.

SB 887 addresses none of this, and leads with the environment instead of workers. It summarily closes down operations at coal fired power plants over an extremely abbreviated timeline – with the first to close only three years from now – and only a notional nod to what workers will need to transition from those jobs. The bill allots Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF) money to the transition, but not nearly in the amount that would be needed to address the thousands of workers directly affected nor the thousands more in support industries and in our communities. Moreover, the estimates of available SEIF money are misleading, considering the amount of pending legislation, just this Session, alone, that targets the same fund, and an unknowable future of RGGI payments into it. Even DLS says it does not have enough information to evaluate the

potential effects of the bill, and any fiscal impact will not occur until FY 2024 at the earliest. This would be right when workers are losing their jobs.

On the energy front, coal is base-load energy. The plants in question provide consistent, scalable energy that is necessary for peak usage like sweltering August days. Without this backbone on the grid, and with no comparable green energy source that can operate on-demand, the future of Maryland energy will be a combination of brown-outs and smart-metering hundreds of thousands of Marylanders out of their air conditioning. There has been no appetite within the General Assembly to expand nuclear energy in our State, let alone natural gas, or any other form of scalable on-demand forms of energy. We cannot simply turn off our coal plants in three years, and expect the energy needs of citizens to be met, not to mention growing with population.

We ask that you help us re-define our priorities on climate change and clean energy jobs. We ask that you join with workers in ensuring that our transition to a post-carbon energy economy lifts up everyone, and leaves no one behind. SB 887 is not the pathway to do that, and we welcome the opportunity for a summer study where all stakeholders – environmental, labor, and industry – can convene and discuss a path forward that is sustainable, clean, meets the energy needs of Marylanders, holds harmless the workers in coal fired power plants, and addresses the future of work in a clean energy industry.

We urge an unfavorable report on SB 887.

Resolution #7: Resolution on Climate Change and Jobs

WHEREAS, numerous studies suggest that there is major job creation potential from tackling the climate crisis, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and transitioning to a low-carbon, sustainable economy; and

WHEREAS, the overall lack of high-road jobs in the green economy and the prevalence of non-union jobs in the limited existing green sectors, such as solar and residential retrofitting, have dampened enthusiasm for the long-promised “clean, green economy” among workers and labor organizations that are anxious to address the climate crisis and build a pro-worker, equitable green economy; and

WHEREAS, the fossil fuel industries have high rates of unionization; and

WHEREAS, strong job and training quality standards are needed in the clean and renewable energy sector, among them being prevailing wage, state-approved apprenticeship job training requirements, project labor agreements, and labor peace agreements; and

WHEREAS, a functioning jobs pipeline could ensure that local workers from our communities have a path to career employment by offering access to training programs such as direct-entry pre-apprenticeship programs and other skill-building opportunities; and

WHEREAS, these job and training quality standards should be central to all “climate jobs” proposals; and

WHEREAS, climate efforts should include funding and guaranteed protection for workers and communities who are displaced or negatively affected by the transition to a low-carbon economy; and

WHEREAS, the AFL-CIO has developed strong policy proposals for protecting workers who are impacted by climate protection policies. These proposals provide a just transition, including 70% wage replacement and 80% health benefit replacement for up to three years, as well as “bridge to retirement” funding for workers who are near retirement.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO supports measures that ensure that energy infrastructure development creates good jobs and builds our industrial base by requiring project labor agreements, prevailing wage, apprenticeship job training requirements, Buy Union and Buy America provisions, labor peace, card check neutrality, robust training requirements for all projects, and includes all the labor requirements passed in the Clean Energy Jobs law.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO in facing the challenge of impacting energy policies embraces a balanced and just approach for workers, communities, manufacturers, businesses and consumers and will continue to work with community, business and environmental allies committed to recognizing the need for worker protections, rights, and sustainable wages and benefits, to maintain a wide range of energy sources, traditional and newer, to secure Maryland’s and the District of Columbia’s competitiveness.

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO will advocate for legislation, administrative rules, and the development of an initiative to enable a transition that is just for workers and communities directly affected by the transition to a clean energy economy by providing income, benefit, and retraining for comparable wage jobs, as well as a bridge to retirement, as part of the just transition and concurrently support the creation of these policies in an equitable fashion.

Submitted by: *Donna S. Edwards, President*
Maryland State and D.C. AFL-CIO
Delegate, AFSCME 112
Gerald W. Jackson, Secretary-Treasurer
Maryland State and DC. AFL-CIO
Delegate, UA 486

Committee: Legislation

Convention Action: Unanimously passed

Talen Energy_UNF_SB887

Uploaded by: Enten, Robert

Position: UNF

February 25, 2020

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley
Chair, Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Re: Senate Bill 887- Oppose

Dear Senator Kelley and Senator Pinsky:

Talen Energy (Talen) submits this written testimony on Senate Bill 887. Talen is an Independent Power Producer which owns approximately 15,000 Megawatts (MW) of fuel-diversified generation throughout the United States, including the Brandon Shores and H.A.Wagner generation facilities in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, which provide 2,200 MW of generation capacity – enough to power two million homes – in the critical BGE transmission zone. The plants employ 260 people and pay approximately \$7 million in taxes annually. Talen opposes this bill for the following reasons:

- **Job Loss and Economic Impact** - Coal plant jobs, and the jobs of those secondary groups who support these plants, will be nearly impossible to replace. These are lifelong careers for hundreds of individuals throughout the State, as well as ancillary jobs associated with vendors, outage workers (up to 500 laborers support annual outages to the benefit of the local economy) and local small businesses including trucking companies, suppliers, landscapers, and service providers. Losing these plants would result in hundreds of people looking for employment in a significantly smaller job pool. Gas plants require 20-30 workers and renewables rarely have more than a handful of dedicated staff, if any. This will put a significant strain on families, where these workers are oftentimes the breadwinner, and transition funding will not bridge the gap. It will also impact the local economy, which will stand to lose the benefits of a significant economic driver and taxpayer.
- **Limited Reductions in Carbon Emissions** – Brandon Shores and H.A.Wagner plants are currently emitting zero carbon, because they aren't running. These plants are around for reliability as capacity resources. Because of economics, in 2020 we project the plants to be running at an equivalent of full capacity for only 14 days, usually to provide power in times of need, acting as an insurance policy for the State and making these critical resources for Maryland.
- **Loss of Critical Resources** - The energy market is already transitioning away from coal-fired generation towards lower CO2 and renewable sources. However, SB887 may force closures before the replacement sources are built and available. During the last PJM Capacity Auction, Brandon Shores and H.A.Wagner represented approximately 80% of the available generation within the BGE zone. In order to avoid unintended consequences, any decision to close the plants should only be made after a fulsome study by PJM and the Maryland PSC. Ensuring there is a plan to replace this generation and meet the State's demand is critical because once these plants are shut down, their generation cannot be brought back online.
- **Effects of Other Legislation** - Maryland has a wide range of policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. Brandon Shores and H.A.Wagner have invested \$1 billion in pollution controls already and new SO2 limits are starting in January 2021, which will further decrease emissions. A market-based transition to cleaner power will further reduce emissions from power plants in the coming years.

Forcing the premature closure of these plants will not make a significant impact in the State's efforts to reduce carbon emissions, however it will put hundreds of family-sustaining jobs at risk, as well as remove the State's key source of reliable backup power without a replacement in place. It is important to understand the tradeoff being made and negative impact on your constituents if this bill is enacted. For these reasons, Talen respectfully requests you give SB887 an **Unfavorable Report**.

Thank you,



Debra L. Raggio
Senior Vice President Regulatory and External Affairs Counsel

Beitzelcorp_UNF_SB0887

Uploaded by: Fogartie, James

Position: UNF



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Grantsville, MD 21536
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Written Testimony of Beitzel Corporation
IN OPPOSITION TO SB 887
Before the Senate Finance Committee
Tuesday February 25, 2020

Chairwoman Kelly and Members of the Senate Finance Committee, Beitzel Corporation (“Beitzel”) respectfully submits this testimony in opposition to SB 887.

Beitzel is a Garrett County business that provides services to the coal industry throughout the state, including AES Warrior Run in Allegany County. Together with its subsidiary, Pillar Innovations, LLC, the companies employ more than 500 people.

As the Legislature considers a variety of potential actions to address energy diversification, it is critical that the voices of Maryland workers and small businesses be included, especially those who are most at risk of job disruptions and economic uprooting as a result of those actions.

SB 887 directly eliminates well-paying jobs for citizens of Allegany and Garrett County by phasing out operations at AES Warrior Run. While the bill specifically targets workers at AES Warrior Run, its impact is wide ranging. Employees of material suppliers and contractors who have built their businesses based on reliable orders from AES may also face job losses. Further, legislatively dissolving one of the region’s largest employers will force those impacted to move to neighboring states where coal power plants continue to operate.

In addition, SB 887’s transitional grant fails to adequately assist all workers who are negatively affected by the bill. The bill only provides grants to support “individuals transition from employment with an electric generating unit.” It fails to account for other individuals whose livelihood would be impacted.

Beitzel agrees that energy diversification should be addressed. However, such development and deployment should be paired with strong labor and procurement standards to grow family sustaining jobs and businesses in affected communities, like Garrett and Allegany County.

Testimony respectfully submitted on behalf of Beitzel Corporation

James Fogartie
Corporate Attorney
Beitzel Corporation

Genon_UFV_SB887

Uploaded by: Gouveia, Mark

Position: UNF

TESTIMONY OF MARK GOUVEIA
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, GENON ENERGY

Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen. My name is Mark Gouveia. I have over 40 years of experience in the power industry and am a resident of La Plata, Maryland. I am currently the Senior Vice President of Operations at GenOn Holdings, Inc., and am in charge of overseeing the operation of all GenOn assets across the country. For the last 13 years, I have been responsible for the Maryland facilities at Dickerson, Morgantown and Chalk Point located in Montgomery, Charles and Prince George's Counties, respectively.

Thank you for providing me an opportunity to discuss my thoughts related to the proposed bill calling for the shutdown of coal power plants in Maryland. I have had a chance to review the pending bill, and frankly, I am left with more questions than answers. The bill does not fully identify or mitigate the consequences of shutting down over 4,000 MWs of coal fired generation in the state of which GenOn owns almost 2,500 MWs. There is no comprehensive plan for the impacts on grid reliability, loss of jobs or loss of property tax revenue. There is no clear consideration of the real impacts this shutdown would have on the local communities in Montgomery, Charles and Prince George's Counties.

Let me provide a few details for each site we operate in Maryland:

- a. Our Dickerson Station has been in operation since 1959 and is capable of generating approximately 850 MW's of which almost 550 MW's of those are coal. The plant currently employs 71 employees and pays approximately \$3M in property taxes to Montgomery County annually.
- b. Our Morgantown Station has been in operation since 1970 and is capable of generating approximately 1500 MW's of which almost 1250 MW's of those are coal. The plant currently employs 104 employees and pays approximately \$9M in property taxes to Charles County annually.
- c. Our Chalk Point Station has been in operation since 1964 and is capable of generating approximately 2600 MW's of which 670 MW's of those are coal. The plant currently employs 123 employees and pays approximately \$8M in property taxes to Prince George's County annually.

We currently provide high quality jobs at our facilities with above average wages and benefits to almost 300 people. The shutdown of coal generation for GenOn in Maryland would reduce that number to approximately 50 people needed to operate and maintain the remaining portions of our Maryland plants. IBEW Local 1900 represents a little over 200 of the employees who would be impacted by this bill. Several of them are here today with their union leadership to express their serious concern over the negative impact this bill would have on them and their families.

The proposed bill does not adequately address retraining of our employees at risk of losing their current employment. This is particularly concerning in Southern Maryland where Morgantown and Chalk Point are located, and where jobs with comparable wage and benefits are very limited. In these areas, the largest employers tend to be non-technical businesses, made up of school districts, government and food service jobs. Our employees are local, many of whom have lived

in these counties for generations; they are unlikely to move for comparable employment outside of the areas they and their families call home.

With respect to the environmental concerns, over the last 10-12 years, we have invested over one billion dollars in emission controls at our coal plants to ensure regulatory compliance and to reduce environmental impacts. These investments in emission control technology, coupled with reduced use of the coal facilities, have reduced NOx emissions by 94%, SO2 emissions by 98% and CO2 emissions by 80% when compared to our emissions levels in 2000.

In addition to lower emissions, we send very little ash generated by burning coal to landfills. Instead, we capture and sell much of the ash and gypsum generated at our facilities to third parties for use in the manufacturing industry.

While our Maryland plants may not operate as often as they have in the past, each plays a significant role in PJM's and PEPSCO's grid reliability programs, and are often dispatched during prolonged cold or hot weather conditions, such as the polar vortex that took place several years ago. We also run to support transmission outages and maintenance when out of area generation is restricted to certain areas of the state. During the winter months in particular, when natural gas is often significantly constrained or unavailable, our coal plants offer a necessary hedge against our growing reliance on natural gas generation.

Keep in mind that removal of Maryland coal-fired generation does not mean the gap in capacity will be filled by renewable generation, or that coal will be dead in the Mid-Atlantic region. To the contrary, Maryland will just become even more dependent on generation sources outside of our state. Have you considered that if this bill were enacted, Maryland would be exporting high quality jobs out of state and increasing the useful life of coal facilities operating right next door that may not operate under the standards adhered to by GenOn? Is that good policy?

From a tax perspective, these plants inject approximately \$20 million dollars a year annually into the local economy. While GenOn's tax payments are significant in each local jurisdiction, they are particularly significant in Charles County; the accelerated removal of this tax revenue without a comprehensive plan to transition away from the lost dollars associated with a shutdown of the Morgantown coal fired facility risks destabilizing local government programs and budgets.

In addition to the property tax loss, the impact to the Maryland economy would be real. For instance, we regularly engage the local Building Trades to supplement our workforce for emergency and planned outages. It is not uncommon to have 400-500 contractors supporting us for extended periods during planned maintenance cycles. We would not have a need for many of these contractors if the coal facilities were shutdown.

We conservatively spend more than \$10M per year for goods and services provided by Maryland based companies. There are many local companies that benefit from our continued business, providing part-time labor support, consumables, parts, hotels and food services.

In short, the risks placed on local communities in exchange for PERCEIVED environmental benefits simply don't add up for me.

I am hopeful that this Committee will study the real-life impact this bill could have not only to the environment, but also to the surrounding communities, their economies and their constituents. I am afraid the current bill, as drafted, does not properly address any of the issues described in my testimony, and it does not offer adequate support to offset the devastating impact it could have on the local communities where these facilities are located and where my family resides.

In closing, I'd like to recognize our hardworking, dedicated men and women who are often criticized for the technology they operate and maintain at a great benefit to this State. The work they do to serve Maryland citizens is too often taken for granted.

Thank you for your time. I am happy to answer any questions the Committee may have regarding my testimony.

MDChamber_Griffin_Unfav_SB887

Uploaded by: Griffin, Andrew

Position: UNF



MARYLAND
Chamber of Commerce

LEGISLATIVE POSITION:

Unfavorable

**Senate Bill 887—Electric Generation-Transition from Fossil Fuels-
Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account
Senate Finance Committee**

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Dear Chairwoman Kelley and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 4,500 members and federated partners, and we work to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic growth for Maryland businesses, employees and families.

Senate Bill 887 would phase-out and require the decommissioning of Maryland's remaining coal-fired electric generating units by the year 2030 by limiting the carbon dioxide emissions rate for the affected units.

We believe this legislation represents a prohibition or ban on what is otherwise recognized as a legal commodity. Not only does this run counter to the free-market principles for which we stand, but it also presents the potential for many unintended consequences, including exponentially increasing cost of energy in Maryland.

Maryland already has a strong renewable mandate in place. As well, the State participates in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), which has a constricting emissions cap from which generators that burn coal must purchase emission credits. This system encourages reductions in coal-related emissions.

While we recognize and appreciate the intent of the legislation, we do not believe that it represents the appropriate pathway for achieving Maryland's environmental goals and objectives.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests an **Unfavorable Report** on Senate Bill 887

MDCHAMBER.ORG

60 West Street, Suite 100, Annapolis 21401 | 410-269-0642

IBEW1900_UNF_SB887

Uploaded by: Griffin, Jim

Position: UNF



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



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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", with a large, stylized initial "J" and "G".

James Griffin

President/Business Manager/Financial Secretary

IBEW Local Union 1900

BDCBT_UNF_SB887

Uploaded by: Guido, Jeff

Position: UNF



Maryland Senate – Finance Committee

Chair: Delores G. Kelley

Vice Chair: Brian J. Feldman

Senate Bill 887 – Electric Generation - Transition From Fossil Fuels - Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account

Position: Opposed

Electrical Workers

Insulators

Boilermakers

United Association

Roofers

Cement Masons

Teamsters

Laborers

Bricklayers

Ironworkers

Sheet Metal Workers

Elevator Constructors

Painters

Operating Engineers

Carpenters

The Baltimore DC Metro Trades Council Opposes SB 887 due to its current implementation time lines and limited funding amounts. We also question the method for determining the 180 lbs of CO2 emissions. A coal carbon content of 78% with a heating value of 14,000 BTU's per pound emits 204.3 lbs of CO2 per million BTU's when completely burned. One KWh produced equals slightly more than 1 pound of CO2. The average home in the U.S. uses 10,399 KWh annually or 867 kwh per month. MD ranks 20th with 12,372 KWh annually and 1031 KWh per month with 2 out 5 homes using electricity for their main source of heat. Does the 180 lbs of CO2 only include the emissions from burning coal or does it include the CO2 created in the mining, rail delivery and maintenance of the power plants in question? There are several ways to generate electricity, but not all generation methods are created equal. Most everyone understands that the methods which rely on fossil fuels create a larger CO2 footprint. There is no CO2 footprint calculated in the shut down of the coal plants as far as dismantling, site clean up and reuse of these sites or what reliable energy source will be used in its place to meet Maryland's ever growing energy needs.

The transition funding cited in the bill is capped at certain limits without any data to support that these finite amounts are sufficient to support the transition of these workers. Especially on the retirement of older workers without subsequent funding to maintain and replenish their defined pension benefits.

There is no plan cited for the replacement energy source. The Public Service Commission has delayed a decision on the MD Offshore Wind turbines by six months.

We ask for an unfavorable report by the committee.

Jeffry Guido – Director

(E) jguido@bdcbt.org (O) 301-909-1071 (C) 240-687-5195

5829 Allentown Rd Camp Spring MD 20746

Value on Display... Everyday.



IBEW26_UNF_SB887

Uploaded by: Hogan, George

Position: UNF



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

GEORGE C. HOGAN: Business Manager • THOMAS C. MYERS: President • RICHARD D. WILKINSON: Vice President
JOSEPH F. DABBS: Financial Secretary • RICHARD G. MURPHY: Recording Secretary • PAULO C. HENRIQUES: Treasurer



February 20, 2020

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 887 ELECTRICAL GENERATION/TRANSITION ACCOUNT FEBRUARY 25, 2020

To: Hon. Delores G. Kelley, Chair, Hon. Brian J. Feldman, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Finance Committee

From: George Hogan, Business Manager, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26

Chairwoman Kelley, and distinguished members of the committee, I am asking you to oppose SB 887, a bill disguised to look environmentally sound and financially responsible to Maryland citizens. In fact, if enacted, this bill will leave the state, "grid dependent" on bordering states who in return charge Maryland for the electricity that they produce, using COAL! If enacted, this transition account, will fall well short of compensating your constituents and my members. IBEW Local 26 members that are self-funded in terms of living wages, health benefits and a secure retirement, will now be forced to be dependents of the state.

My job is to educate and employ all of my members. We are informed, equipped and are now working on all forms of green energy, and proud to be leaders in that field. The loss of coal will not cause us to lose a step, in fact in a green state we will prosper even more. But the truth is, Maryland is not self-sufficient in terms of clean or cleaner energy. Before you vote on this bill, I ask you to educate your constituents, let them know that Maryland is not currently ready to do away with coal burning power plants. We are just willing to export and purchase it from neighboring states. Let them know that if this bill passes, the carbon dioxide emissions will still be affecting our health, negatively. These targeted generating units will be shut down, communities destroyed and thousands of Marylanders will be left fighting for scraps designated by this transition account.

I ask that this committee continue to search and utilize all forms of clean fuel, however this goal of shutting down these primary coal generating units by 2023, is a "showboat" move that is unrealistic and disastrous to the state. **FACT: Maryland is not and will not be able to sustain its electrical power needs without these primary coal generating units for at least 20 years, if passed this bill will just force us (Maryland) to purchase electricity from Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia. FACT: This energy is produced by Coal!**





International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

GEORGE C. HOGAN: Business Manager • THOMAS C. MYERS: President • RICHARD D. WILKINSON: Vice President
JOSEPH F. DABBS: Financial Secretary • RICHARD G. MURPHY: Recording Secretary • PAULO C. HENRIQUES: Treasurer



I also ask that you please take the time to achieve the goal of being self-energy reliant before you close down these units, I ask you, the members of the Senate Finance Committee, to at least request a summer study. This study will educate all of us, producing future legislation guided with better knowledge from all parties, this summer study will also allow you to fact check my claims stated above. I request that each and every Senator to let this sink in, "Maryland wants to and should be the leader in clean energy, but Maryland is not and will not be able to sustain its electrical power needs without these primary coal generating units for at least 20 years, we will not be ready by 2023." Sponsors of this bill are putting the cart, decades before of the horse.

I also ask that you look closely at the Fossil Fuel Transition Account, if your intention is too smooth over this process by directing funds to invest in communities and retrain workers, then this measly account falls way short. I ask that you take responsibility for your legislation and make this a budget item, appropriating all the necessary funds.

As the leader of 4636 Maryland electricians, residents and voters, I ask you to oppose this rushed bill, SB 887.

Thank you,

George C. Hogan
Business Manager

Chartered 1892
Washington, D.C.



SMARTTD_UNF_SB887

Uploaded by: Kasecamp, Larry

Position: UNF

LARRY KASECAMP
Legislative Director

VACANT
Assistant Director

THOMAS CAHILL
Secretary



ANNAPOLIS OFFICE
176 Conduit St., Suite 206
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PH: 301-697-2695
utusldmd@gmail.com

February 25, 2020

The Honorable Delores Kelley and
Members of the Senate Finance Committee

REPRESENTATIVES

CUMBERLAND
Local 430
TIMOTHY HUMMELBAUGH

Local 600
JASON WEAVER

BRUNSWICK
Local 631
TOM CAHILL

EDMONSTON
Local 1470
KENZELL CRAWFORD

BALTIMORE
Local 610
JOHNNY WALKER

Local 1949
CORA WEEMS

RE: SB887

As State Legislative Director for the Transportation Division of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Worker's I am urging your committee to **oppose SB887**, "*Electric Generation - Transition From Fossil Fuels - Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account.*"

Our organization represents railroad workers who are employed by CSX Transportation, Norfolk Southern Railroad, Canton Railroad and in MARC and Amtrak commuter services.

All are covered by collective bargaining agreements that provide for an upper middle-class income with great health care benefits and an excellent pension system. Most have been employed in freight rail service for over ten years with the expectation they will retire from the industry after a healthy career.

The transportation of coal has been a large part of our members work opportunities. They understand the abundance of natural gas, due to recent production processes, has lowered the price of natural gas and has had a major impact in the marketplace causing the reduction in usage of coal. This is the way our national economy is designed to work, and they accept this.

They also understand the actions of the General Assembly over the past several years has been focused on forcing the reduced usage of coal through legislative efforts.

What they don't understand is the constant attacks on eliminating their livelihoods with little or no consideration of the consequences on them and their families.

Our members just experienced the devastating effects that the closure of the Verso paper plant in Luke Maryland has had on over 3000 jobs and business owners in that community with little or no expectations for re-employment in this location.

Families have been devastated by the loss of employment of the bread winner and having to face the reality that they will most likely have to sell their homes and uproot their families in order to find employment that will keep them in the middle class.

Industrial facilities such as the Luke Paper Mill, the Wheelabrator, Covanta and Curtis Bay Medical waste-to-energy facilities, and the six targeted coal-fired power plants in this legislation all provide jobs with family sustaining wages and benefits that cannot be replaced easily, if at all. Moreover, they provide economic benefits for communities through suppliers, service providers, educational resources and tax payments.

If it is the legislature's intent to proffer bold legislation that will drastically impact these facilities to the point of forcing closure, the legislature should be bold enough to accept responsibility for those working families who will be profoundly affected.

This proposed legislation makes an insufficient attempt at providing remedies for those working families who will be profoundly impacted. Mostly because these working families were not represented at the table when the legislation was developed.

It is true that a feeble attempt was made at requesting several labor union's input in the last hour before the proposed legislation was published. However, the labor coalition that represents the workers who will be profoundly impacted were put in an unattainable position when they were provided with a copy of the proposed legislation and requested to provide their input through suggested amendments at this late hour.

We believe SB887 should be scrapped in its current form and a study group developed that includes all the stakeholders who can then take the necessary time to address all of the issues related to the proposed legislation.

We therefore urge your committee to give an unfavorable report to SB887.

Sincerely



Lawrence E. Kasecamp
MD State Legislative Director
 Transportation Division

IBEW_UNF_SB887

Uploaded by: Kasmak, Ray

Position: UNF



**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD OF
ELECTRICAL WORKERS
FOURTH DISTRICT**



LONNIE R. STEPHENSON
International President

KENNETH W. COOPER
International Secretary-Treasurer

BRIAN G. MALLOY
*International Vice President
Fourth District*

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February 21, 2020

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

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Senate Finance Committee

OPPOSED

**Ray Kasmark, Director Business Development Department, International Brotherhood
of Electrical Workers**

Dear Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and members of the Finance Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.

The IBEW has consistently maintained that an all-inclusive portfolio of power generation provides reliability and resiliency to the grid. The need for baseload generation power plants, such as these fossil fueled plants, provide grid stability and allow utilities the options to include thousands of variable renewable generation megawatts to the grid without jeopardizing stability. The IBEW has consistently supported research technologies that would improve CO2 emissions from fossil fueled plants. While renewable power generation technologies provide additional value to a cleaner grid, they have not advanced to the level that would allow baseload generation to be removed and still provide reliable and resilient power 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

IBEW represents workers in all generation sources of electricity including fossil fueled baseload power plants. Baseload generation plants not only provide reliable power but hundreds of thousands of middle-class jobs with benefits. The IBEW supports all technologies that would provide a cleaner reliable power grid while not causing immediate harm to the thousands of our members and other workers in the industry.

Sincerely,

Ray Kasmark
Director Business Development Department
IBEW

IBEWMalloy_UNF_SB887

Uploaded by: Malloy, Brian

Position: UNF



**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD OF
ELECTRICAL WORKERS
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February 21, 2020

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

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Senate Finance Committee

OPPOSED

**Brian G. Malloy, International Vice President, International Brotherhood of Electrical
Workers Fourth District**

Dear Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and members of the Finance Committee,

On behalf of more than 5,700 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in Maryland, I am opposing Senate Bill 887. Closing the fossil fueled plants in Maryland, without alternative energy sources in place will jeopardize the stability of the grid. There has also been no data that clearly supports that the proposed transition funding, if even available, will be sufficient to support the transition of the displaced workers and their communities. I and my Maryland IBEW members respectfully ask for an unfavorable report by the committee.

Sincerely,

Brian G. Malloy
International Vice President
IBEW Fourth District

BGM/lcm

IBEW26Myers_UNF_SB887

Uploaded by: Myers, Tom

Position: UNF



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

GEORGE C. HOGAN: Business Manager • THOMAS C. MYERS: President • RICHARD D. WILKINSON: Vice President
JOSEPH F. DABBS: Financial Secretary • RICHARD G. MURPHY: Recording Secretary • PAULO C. HENRIQUES: Treasurer



Testimony in strong opposition to SB 887

Electric Generation – Transition from Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account

To the Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair; the Honorable Brian J. Feldman Vice Chair; and members of the Senate Finance Committee

From: Thomas Myers, President of IBEW Local 26

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my strong opposition to SB 1545.

As President of IBEW Local 26, I represent the interest of thousands of Maryland electricians, who own property and vote in many of the counties in our State. These Local 26 members reside and pay taxes in Maryland. They support the business environment of the state with the wages they earn and spend.

Senate Bill 887, "Electric Generation – Transition from Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account" on its face sets a limit to the carbon dioxide emission of a coal burning power facility in the State of MD to 180 pounds per million BTU's. This number is an unreachable number with current technology and would demand that the coal burning plants in Maryland be shuttered beginning on and after Oct 1, 2023.

I will begin with a few statements that are short and clear, the later information will build on each statement. Reference material is in super script. SB 887 has the following shortcomings:

- 1) Hundreds if not thousands of jobs will be lost with no guarantee of equivalent employment.
- 2) The funding promised by this bill has already been targeted by other legislation and will likely not be available in the amounts needed.
- 3) Businesses and communities will be affected financially by this legislation.
- 4) Maryland's renewable energy is not able to make of the short fall of power if these units are shuttered.
- 5) Maryland is already a net importer of electrical energy; therefore, this legislation will make it worse.
- 6) There will be little if any reduction in the mid-Atlantic region's overall CO2 emissions.
- 7) The technology is not currently in place to make this achievable in any meaningful fashion.

To be clear, my opposition to this bill is only partially because of the hundreds, possibly thousands, of well-paying jobs with benefits and retirements that would be lost. Those jobs are held by citizens of Maryland that would not be "made whole" by the Fossil Fuel Transition Account that is already being claimed by multiple bills in front of Maryland's legislature. The millions of dollars in lost wages, lost benefits, lost security, the secondary businesses closing, the damage done to the economic welfare of





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employee's communities, lost revenue for businesses which reach far beyond the ability of the grants and training promised in this bill. There is no way to guarantee funds promised in the bill will be available, or even allocated for that purpose 1 or 2 or 10 years from now.

A large majority of the people I represent live in MD. They depend upon a reliable, constant supply of electric power. As do the hospitals, the schools, the start up businesses, and EVERYONE ELSE. This bill may hinder Maryland's ability to supply adequate electricity to its citizens and businesses.

Currently, the renewable energy produces just 12% of Maryland's in state net generation and half of that is Hydropower. ⁽¹⁾

Coal burning facilities produce just 23% of the energy generated in Maryland, down from the 50%-mark coal has historically held. ⁽²⁾ Maryland is ALREADY lowering its dependence on coal produced electricity. As a point of reference, Maryland is already a net importer of electric energy ⁽³⁾. Currently Maryland consumes almost twice the electrical energy it produces in state. In simple terms; Maryland already imports electricity from neighboring states that would not be restricted by these over reaching laws being pushed by the Sierra Club. When a customer needs power, that power is pulled off the electrical grid, that grid is fed by generating plants from around the region. Pennsylvania produces power with coal, that power will be consumed everywhere the power lines reach. If Maryland needs more power than it's producing, Maryland gets it from Pennsylvania, or Ohio or wherever. The pollution, including Carbon Dioxide, that is generated from plants in other state does not recognize state borders.

The renewable energy portfolio of MD cannot make up the production capability of the coal burning plants during peak time. This is a current fact. It may change in the future but it is not so now. To shutter 12 power production units, in a state where everybody uses electricity to cool in the heat of summer and 4 out of 10 household use electricity to heat their homes, ⁽⁴⁾ is a dangerous and reckless proposition. If the power is not available because of lack of in state production, people and businesses will be hurt. If the power is available, because of other states' production, the purpose of the bill is lost because the power is produced by coal elsewhere and all the people who WILL lose their jobs will have suffered for no improvement in CO2 emissions.

The technology to implement this vast overhaul of the electrical power production of the state and the nation is currently being developed and/or implemented. I have yet to see evidence of "grid – level battery storage" in any capacity other than research. Without storage capability, renewable energies are a decentralized source, meaning it can be used at individual locations, or campuses. In small areas that have gone green (Aspen, Colorado for example) 46% of the energy supply comes from Hydroelectric, its other green energies are wind and solar. The simple fact is that when the wind isn't blowing or the sun is not shining, Aspen still gets the energy it needs, the claim of 100% renewable is on average. Aspen purchases as much "green energy" as is available, but when the renewables fail, the power Aspen consumes comes from the grid, and much of that is from traditional sources.

Finally, for whatever reason, the Sierra Club has decided that Maryland will be one of their battle-ground states this year. I do not believe that the Legislature of this State needs to be seen as the testing ground for getting "green laws" passed. We all recognize climate change as an existential threat. This





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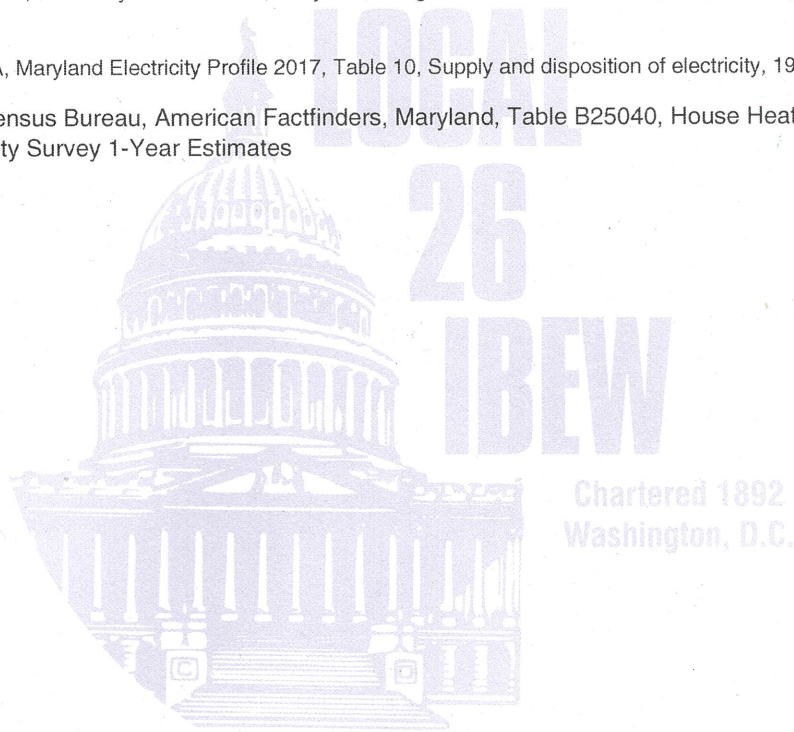


threat must be addressed nationally, and in a systematic method. Proving that the infrastructure is in place PRIOR to writing laws that affect traditional fuel production is what is needed. An in-depth study regarding pollution levels, existing production and storage capability, peak energy requirements, regional emissions and, not the least, the affect this type of legislation will have on the communities, families and business that rely on these units, should they eventually be shuttered, is the minimum the state of MD should require before even entertaining this type of legislation

(1&2) U.S. EIA, Electricity Data Browser, Maryland, Net generation for all sectors (thousand megawatt hours), annual, 2001-18.

(3) U.S. EIA, Maryland Electricity Profile 2017, Table 10, Supply and disposition of electricity, 1990 through 2017.

(4) U.S. Census Bureau, American Factfinders, Maryland, Table B25040, House Heating Fuel, 2017 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates



IBEW307_UNF_SB887

Uploaded by: Rice, Rodney

Position: UNF



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

A.F.L. – C.I.O. – C.F.I.

Local Union No. 307

401 Decatur Street - Cumberland, MD 21502

301-724-3403 Fax 301-724-2722



Rodney E. Rice – Business Manager

www.ibew307.org

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney E. Rice".

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

MDE_LOI_sb887

Uploaded by: Abbott, Tyler

Position: INFO



Maryland

Department of the Environment

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Ben Grumbles, Secretary
Horacio Tablada, Deputy Secretary

February 25, 2020

The Honorable Dolores G. Kelley, Chair
Finance Committee
Senate Office Building, Suite 3E
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Senate Bill 887- Electric Generation - Transition From Fossil Fuels - Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account

Dear Chair Kelley and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or the Department) has reviewed *Senate Bill 887- Electric Generation - Transition From Fossil Fuels - Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account*. The bill has two main components, establishing a maximum emission rate of 180 pounds per million British Thermal Units for carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from electrical generating units (EGUs) and establishing a Fossil Fuel Community Transition Account. The Department would like to provide some information related to this bill.

CO₂ Emission Reductions

SB 887 establishes a maximum emission rate of 180 pounds per million British Thermal Units for CO₂ emissions from EGUs that primarily use coal as a fuel source. The six largest coal-fired EGUs in Maryland would be considered affected units under the bill. The timetable for meeting the mandated CO₂ emission rate is set in the bill and varies between October 1, 2025 and October 1, 2030 depending on the affected unit.

MDE would like to provide some information on existing initiatives that also provide emission reductions at these power plants- both in terms of CO₂ and criteria pollutants such as nitrogen oxides (NO_x).

RGGI

Maryland has been a member of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) since 2007. RGGI is comprised of ten states in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. These states adopted market-based CO₂ cap and trade programs designed to reduce emissions of CO₂, a GHG, from fossil fuel-fired electricity generators with a nameplate capacity of 25 megawatts or greater. Since RGGI began in 2009, the RGGI states have cut power plant emissions in half.

Participating RGGI states require electricity generators to have acquired, through regional auction or secondary market transactions, one CO₂ allowance for every ton of CO₂ emitted over a three-year compliance period. Auction proceeds fund a number of State programs, including energy efficiency programs that result in lower CO₂ emissions through reduced electricity demand. Further, auction proceeds fund renewable energy projects that reduce the amount of CO₂ emissions generated by fossil fueled electricity generators.

Chair Kelley

Page 2

In 2017 RGGI completed a program review and strengthened RGGI to bring about steady, deeper reductions of GHG emissions by 2030. With the success of the initiative, and as a national leader in the effort to combat climate change, Maryland and the other participating RGGI states are actively working to engage new participants in the program. The first-in-the-nation carbon cap-and-invest program for power plants has been strengthened by implementing the participating states' plan to secure an additional 30% reduction in power plant emissions by 2030 and expanding the program to new participating states in the region to reduce pollution from power plants supplying electricity into Maryland. This market-based system for CO₂ reductions will play a significant role in determining which plants will be operating in the future based on their ability to compete effectively in today's energy market and their importance in meeting the region's energy demands.

2015 NO_x Regulation

Since 2009, the Maryland Healthy Air Act (HAA) and Maryland's 2015 NO_x regulation for coal-fired power plants have reduced SO₂, NO_x and mercury emissions by 90, 70 and 90 percent respectively. Maryland's 2015 NO_x regulation builds on the ozone season provisions of the HAA by requiring power plants to minimize NO_x emissions every day of the ozone season by optimizing and running pollution control equipment and by lowering emission rates to achieve increasingly stringent standards by June 1, 2020. Since this rule was implemented in 2015, Maryland's coal-fired power plants have recorded their lowest NO_x emissions ever.

Fossil Fuel Community Transition Account

This bill also creates a "Fossil Fuel Community Transition Account" for the distribution of various grants to assist employees and communities impacted by the closure or reduced operations of the affected EGUs. Funding for the newly established account is to be provided from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF) by reformulating how the overall SEIF funding is distributed. Two accounts within SEIF are to get a lower percentage of SEIF revenues to make funds available for the new account. The renewable and clean energy programs account is one that will be subject to a reduced percentage of SEIF funding under this bill. That account supports MDE's climate change programmatic activities in an amount that currently averages around \$3 million a year.

The overall SEIF revenues could, over the long term, decrease should all six plants shut down as a consequence of this bill. However, since the RGGI allowance value is a product of a regional allowance market, the price impact of reduced coal-fired EGU emissions in Maryland may be mitigated by the large and growing size of the regional market. Also, RGGI has built-in mechanisms that adjust the overall carbon cap in response to emissions changes, including the Emissions Containment Reserve and periodic Program Review, which could mitigate any decrease in RGGI allowance value (and therefore a decrease in SEIF revenues).

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor *Senate Bill 887- Electric Generation - Transition From Fossil Fuels - Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account* during the Committee's deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-260-6301 or by e-mail at tyler.abbott@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,



Tyler Abbott

cc: George "Tad" Aburn, Director, Air and Radiation Administration

SB887_LOI_MDDeptofLabor

Uploaded by: Harrison, Michael

Position: INFO

SENATE BILL 887

Date: February 25, 2020
Committee: Finance
Bill Title: Electric Generation - Transition from Fossil Fuels - Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account
RE: Letter of Information

Senate Bill 887 utilizes funds from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund to establish a transition account for grants to support individuals transitioning from employment with electric generating units and communities that are impacted by the permanent retirement of an electric generating unit.

The Maryland Department of Labor (Department) currently provides valuable workforce training opportunities that are available to all Marylanders. Pursuant to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the Department manages **federal funds** designed to provide assistance to employers for managing workforce reductions, which may include early identification of firms at risk of layoffs, assessment of the needs of and options for at-risk firms, and the delivery of services to address these needs.¹

Layoff aversion activities may also include ongoing engagement, partnership, and relationship-building activities with businesses in the community, in order to create an environment for successful layoff aversion efforts and to enable the provision of assistance to dislocated workers in obtaining reemployment as soon as possible. Moreover, the Department currently has the ability to connect businesses and workers to short-term, on-the-job, and/or customized training programs and registered apprenticeships before or after layoff to help facilitate rapid reemployment.

Large layoff events are covered by the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act of 1988. The WARN Act protects workers, their families, and communities by requiring employers with 100 or more employees to provide at least 60 calendar days advance written notice of a plant closing and mass layoff affecting 50 or more employees at a single site of employment.²

Once a WARN event has begun, the Department begins its “Rapid Response” process, which includes: (1) the provision of information and access to unemployment compensation benefits and programs, such as short-time compensation, Pell Grants, the GI Bill, introduction to American Job Centers, and other resources; (2) the delivery of other necessary services and resources, including workshops and classes, use of worker transition centers, job fairs, and training to support reemployment efforts for affected workers; and (3) the provision of additional assistance, as described in 20 CFR 682.350, to local areas that experience mass layoffs, or other dislocation events, when such events exceed the capacity of the local area to respond with existing resources.

In addition to the above information, Maryland currently manages federal and state funded programs that provide opportunities for training and sustainable employment.

¹ WIOA sec. 134(d)(1)(A)(ix)(II)(cc)

² <https://www.dol.gov/general/topic/termination/plantclosings>

SB0887 - Letter of Information

Uploaded by: Mallory, Rich

Position: INFO



Maryland
Energy
Administration

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Mary Beth Tung, Director

TO: Senate Finance
FROM: Mary Beth Tung – Director, MEA
SUBJECT: SB0887 – Transition From Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account
DATE: February 25, 2020

MEA POSITION: Letter of Information

The proposed legislation will divert dwindling Strategic Energy Investment Fund (“SEIF”) resources from critical energy programs meant for low-to-moderate income (“LMI”) Marylanders and for renewable and clean energy programs to a duplicative workforce development fund. Under the proposed legislation the statutory dollar allocations for the LMI and renewable and clean energy program sub-accounts within SEIF would be reduced by \$5.19 million *each*.

As set forth in the fiscal note: the proposed legislation will also likely reduce revenue from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (“RGGI”) to the SEIF by \$50 million. The six baseload generating stations targeted for elimination in the proposed legislation account for 6,139 megawatts of reliable and resilient baseload electrical generation in Maryland. While emission reductions are a noble and important cause, it should be noted that shuttering these assets in a mandated timeframe could have a potentially negative effect on electrical reliability and resiliency in Maryland. Ultimately, the low price of natural gas has been the catalyst for the majority of coal plant closures, and the carbon emissions of the electric grid have been significantly reduced as a result.

MEA supports transitioning Maryland to cleaner sources of baseload electricity. However, the tens of millions of dollars in mandated transfers from the SEIF in the proposed legislation would likely require MEA to discontinue certain programs and lower funding to non-impactful levels for others, such as MEA’s LMI program. MEA believes that this would harm MEA’s statutory mission to: “to promote affordable, reliable, and clean energy to fuel Maryland’s future prosperity.” MEA requests you take this information under advisement when considering how to report on SB887.

SB 887

Uploaded by: Schulz, Kelly

Position: INFO



Larry Hogan | Governor
Boyd Rutherford | Lt. Governor
Kelly M. Schulz | Secretary of Commerce

DATE: February 25, 2020
BILL NO: Senate Bill 887
BILL TITLE: Electric Generation - Transition From Fossil Fuels - Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account
COMMITTEE: Senate Finance & Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Statement of Information

Senate Bill 887 would implement a limit on carbon dioxide emissions for six coal-fired power plants in Maryland and would create a new Advisory Board and Fund that would help reduce the impact of a transition to a decarbonized economic on impacted counties and workers. The fund is established in order to help reduce the adverse impacts on Maryland workers, who rely on employment in these plants to provide for their family, and Maryland counties, who rely on the tax revenue generated by these plants to provide essential services for local residents. The Advisory Board and the Fund would be staffed and administered by the Maryland Department of Commerce (Commerce).

SB 887 mandates that the six plants identified in the bill reduce their CO₂ emissions levels so that they do not exceed 180 pounds per million British thermal unit (MMBTU). According to the US Energy Information Administration (EIA), coal production results in, on average, 210.2 pounds of CO₂ per MMBTU¹. Therefore, the emissions levels mandated in SB 887 are roughly 15 percent below average. To reduce emissions in order to be compliant, Maryland's coal-fired plants will likely need to invest in expensive renovations, such as carbon capture and storage. These investments will create additional costs and may force coal plants to close.

Fossil fuel plants in Maryland support hundreds of Maryland workers. As of the second quarter 2019, Maryland had 31 fossil fuel plants which each employ an average of 71 workers². These workers earn an average annual salary of \$112,320, far above the average Maryland wage. The closure of one plant would mean the loss of high-paying jobs in the state and would present workers with few immediate employment opportunities where their skills would be directly applicable. Additionally, the loss of a single plant would have large tax implications for county governments. A report by the Maryland Department of the Environment estimated that the

¹ Energy Information Administration. Carbon Dioxide Emissions Coefficient. Accessed at: https://www.eia.gov/environment/emissions/co2_vol_mass.php

² Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages. Private, All Industry Aggregations, Maryland. Accessed at: https://data.bls.gov/cew/apps/table_maker/v4/table_maker.htm#type=11&year=2019&qtr=2&own=5&area=24000&supp=0

average local fiscal impacts would be nearly \$6.3 million were one fossil fuel plant to close³. Much of this fiscal impact comes from property taxes.

The timeframe for the phase-in of the CO2 emissions limits does provide some coal plants with time to prepare. For example, the Warrior Run plant has 10 years before it is required to comply with the new limits in SB 887. However, there is the potential that many of the coal plants in the state will be closed in the near-term regardless of what happens with proposed legislation.

For example, Maryland is part of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). RGGI is a partnership between a number of Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern states to run a joint cap-and-trade program to reduce CO2 emissions. In 2017, these states announced that the overall cap on CO2 emissions would reduce by 30 percent between 2020 and 2030. The Maryland Department of the Environment recently completed research to understand the potential impact of the shrinking RGGI cap on Maryland's electricity generation.

The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act (GGRA) of 2016 requires Maryland to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent of 2006 levels by 2030. In October 2019, the Maryland Department of the Environment released its draft plan to meet this mandate. In the plan, generation from coal-fired plants decreases by roughly 80 percent as a result of a shrinking RGGI cap and decreased electricity demand^{4,5}.

Therefore, while the limits mandated in SB 887 may lead to closures on their own, it is unclear if the plants will remain open even if the proposed legislation does not pass. Without a transition plan in place, counties and workers will suffer. A transition plan is especially needed in case either of the Warrior Run, located in Allegany County, or Morgantown, located in Charles County, plants close, as these plants are located in counties that have fewer employment opportunities for displaced workers. While SB 887 provides the framework for this transition plan, the funding mechanism results in a substantial amount of money being taken from programs that directly employ workers or put money in the hands of low income residents and puts it into county governments with the hope that the money be used to employ workers or put money in the hands of low income residents. Although county governments also drive local economies, it is not clear that this approach would be able to provide greater economic benefits when compared to the more direct approaches currently in place. Additionally, the administration of this fund would require significant additional staff resources and expertise which Commerce does not currently have available.

³ Maryland Department of the Environment. Appendix I: Just Transition. Page 18. Accessed at: <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Air/ClimateChange/Documents/2019GGRAPlan/Appendices/Appendix%20I%20-%20Just%20Transition.pdf>

⁴ Maryland Department of the Environment. Appendix F: Documentation of Maryland PATHWAYS Scenario Modeling. Page 13. Accessed at: <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Air/ClimateChange/Documents/2019GGRAPlan/Appendices/Appendix%20F%20-%20Documentation%20of%20Maryland%20PATHWAYS%20Scenario%20Modeling.pdf>

⁵ Maryland Department of the Environment. GGRA Draft Emissions Estimates (link under 11/19/2019 meeting). Accessed at <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Air/ClimateChange/MCCC/Pages/MWG.aspx>