



PLUMBERS AND STEAMFITTERS
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Maryland House of Delegates – Appropriations Committee
TO: Delegate McIntosh, Chair; and Members of the Committee
FROM: Gerald Jackson, Sec-Treasurer for the Maryland State & D.C. AFL-CIO
Assistant Business Manager – Plumbers & Steamfitters UA Local 486

SUPPORT HB 520 – State Buildings – Geothermal Energy Systems – Requirement

On behalf of the of the 2500 members of the Plumbers & Steamfitters local union 486, I ask you to SUPPORT HB 520.

As we slowly transition away from fossil fuel to more renewable sources, we must consider its impact on the community, the taxpayer, and the displaced workers. If the state is going to mandate the use of renewable sources on individuals and businesses', then the state must lead and use these new technologies on public buildings.

This legislation would look out for the displaced workers because, unlike many other forms of renewable energy, the people who build and maintain fossil fuel infrastructure are from the same construction crafts as those who build and maintain a Geothermal Energy System. When these systems get built on public buildings, they could fall under prevailing wage, which means better-trained workers, more local businesses and workers, and a better value for the taxpayers.

For these reasons, I ask for a favorable report for HB 520.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gerald W. Jackson – Md. State & D.C. AFL-CIO, Plumbers & Steamfitter's UA Local 486