



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AFL-CIO

7 School Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2096

Office. (410) 269-1940 • Fax (410) 280-2956

President

Donna S. Edwards

Secretary-Treasurer

Gerald W. Jackson

**HB 613 – Prince George’s County – Coal and Gas-Fired Generating Stations – Prohibitions
(Prince George’s County Stop Environmentally Unjust Coal and Gas Plants Act of 2021)
House Economic Matters Committee
February 25, 2021**

OPPOSE

**Donna S. Edwards
President**

Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB 613 – Prince George’s County – Coal and Gas-Fired Generating Stations – Prohibitions (Prince George’s County Stop Environmentally Unjust Coal and Gas Plants Act of 2021). My name is Donna Edwards, President of the Maryland State and DC, AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 340,000 union members in the state of Maryland, I offer the following comments.

Natural Gas and coal are base-load energy. They provide consistent, scalable energy that is necessary for peak usage like sweltering August days and frigid February nights. The fact is, renewables like solar and wind, for the foreseeable future, need a fast-ramping capability like natural gas as a partner to ensure energy reliability to Maryland residents. 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, or, much worse, leaving households stranded in frigid temperatures.

On average, Natural Gas accounts for 31% of energy usage and coal accounts for 27%. All renewable energy sources (Hydro, Solar, Wind, etc.), combined, only fill 10% of energy needs. The path forward for a clean energy future is through the expansion of renewable energy sources, first, before we turn off the base-load sources that we currently depend on. HB 613 denies current sources of energy before strengthening and growing renewables in a way that can offset fossil fuels. This bill puts the cart firmly before the horse.

For these reasons, we urge an unfavorable report on HB 613.