

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

AFFILIATED WITH:

Baltimore-D.C. Metro 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

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Testimony of

Peter Demchuk, Business Manager, IBEW, LOCAL 24

Before the

Finance Committee

On

SB-148— Electric Generation - Transition From Fossil Fuels –
Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition plan and Fund

Strongly Oppose

January 29, 2021,

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 41-year member, and Business Manager, of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 24, located in Baltimore. I represent approximately 2,000 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, not only to my profession but to all the working men and women in Maryland.

SB-148 is not good for tradespeople in the state of Maryland. The last job performed by my members at Brandon Shores averaged more than 150 workers over

18 months. That translates to more than a half-million hours worked. A half-million hours of hardworking Maryland residents having good honest prevailing wage work. That's not even mentioning the actual employees of these power houses. Arbitrary numbers on what qualifies a "displaced worker" (the 20-person minimum or losing 75% of net income) do nothing to assure these hardworking, essential employees are cared about and understood throughout this process.

The transition funding in this bill has no guarantees that I can see. There is no data to show the amounts suggested are enough for a just transition for the many workers that will be impacted. The language of the bill sets unrealistic expectations for many workers to be retrained and find comparable employment in other fields. These issues don't just affect individuals at a plant of more than 20 displaced workers. They impact spouses, children, communities, whole sectors of our Maryland economy. These are the hardworking men and women who kept the lights on during a global pandemic and were considered essential then, but apparently not now.

Lastly, nowhere in the text of this bill, or any others, does it address from where Maryland residents will get their energy. My members and I agree that there needs to be cleaner ways to generate electricity, but that infrastructure is not yet in place. The timeline called for in SB-148 is too aggressive with no other clean energy alternatives in the area. For these reasons and others, the IBEW IS OPPOSED TO THE CLOSURE OF FOSSIL FUEL PLANTS!

I've included a statement from our International President on the last page of my letter.

On behalf of 2,000 of my members and many other hardworking men and women of Maryland, I IMPLORE you to give SB-148 an unfavorable report.

Thank you,


Peter P. Demchuk

PPD:CLR
AFL-CIO
OPEIU # 2

All of the Above Energy Portfolio Remains Key to Our Power Future

IBEW International President Lonnie Stephenson issued the following statement on the importance of an all the above energy strategy:

“The IBEW reaffirms our longtime commitment to an all of the above energy portfolio which would help the United States meet its climate change goals, support good jobs, and provide both reliability and resiliency to the energy grid.

America’s energy landscape is changing. There is widespread consensus among elected officials, industry, and union leaders that we as a nation need to commit to investing in a renewable energy future.

But that commitment must include a responsibility not to jeopardize either grid stability or the economic security of energy workers and their communities.

Nuclear and fossil-fueled baseload power plants provide not only a reliable source of power 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They support tens of thousands of good-paying middle-class jobs.

As crucial as solar and wind are, the reality is they still cannot meet all the energy needs provided by baseload generation.

We fully support research technologies such as carbon capture to slash emissions from fossil-fueled plants as part of a broader strategy to invest in a clean energy future.

As the largest union of energy professionals in the nation, we understand the need to tap into all this nation’s available power sources to meet the challenges of climate change, job creation and a reliable grid.

And we support all investments to create a cleaner power grid without causing immediate harm to working families or America’s energy security.”