

Bill SB188-HB66 Coal Letter of Support Burnett 1-2

Uploaded by: Brock-Cancellieri, Jen

Position: FAV



BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL
KRISTERFER BURNETT, 8TH DISTRICT

Room 521, City Hall
100 N Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
Office (410) 396-4818
Fax (410) 396-4828

BILL NO: SB148/ HB66
TITLE: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources
COMMITTEE: House Economic Matters Committee and Senate Finance Committee
POSITION: **SUPPORT with Sponsor Amendments**

Baltimore City Council passed resolution 10-0135R, “For the purpose of urging the Maryland General Assembly to pass and the Governor to sign legislation establishing a clear and enforceable commitment to finally move Maryland beyond coal-fired power plants, and to create a Coal Community Transition Fund to support impacted communities and workers.”

While there are no coal-fired boilers in Baltimore City, on the days of the year when these over 50-year-old power plants fire up their boilers, in Anne Arundel, Prince George’s, Charles, Allegany, and Montgomery Counties the toxic and dangerous pollution like lead, mercury, selenium, smog-forming nitrogen oxides, and acid rain-causing sulfur pollution doesn’t stop at the Baltimore city line. That means that Baltimoreans, especially our most vulnerable children and elderly, are suffering from asthma attacks and getting sick.

Three coal plants in Maryland are operating without modern pollution controls that provide a safeguard for smog-forming nitrogen oxides. Breathing smog which is like getting sunburn on your lungs. This should be solved at the state level as eighty-eight percent of Marylanders live in counties unable to meet clean air smog standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Coal is an outdated and uneconomical way to meet our energy needs—and the market is proving that. In the last decade, across the country nearly 300 coal plants have retired or announced retirement, often with little notice for workers and communities. The legislature should provide certainty for this transition for our local governments who rely on the tax base, the workers who rely on these coal companies for their paychecks, and for all of our fight against climate chaos.

It is time for Maryland to pass this plan, SB 148/HB66, to prepare our workers, our communities, and our energy system for the transition away from coal-fired power plants to renewable energy.

Sincerely,

Kristerfer Burnett
City Councilmen District 8
Baltimore City

Signed Baltimore City Council Resolution 19-0135R.

Uploaded by: Brock-Cancellieri, Jen

Position: FAV

Introduced by: Councilmember Burnett, Henry *Bullard*, *SNEED*, *Mr. Powell*, *DORSEY*, *James*

Prepared by: Department of Legislative Reference

Date: January 30, 2019

Referred to: **RESOLUTION**

Committee

Also referred for recommendation and report to municipal agencies listed on reverse.

Leah Clark
Middleton
Reisinger
Stolces

CITY COUNCIL *19-0135R*

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

Supporting Coal Community Transition Legislation in Maryland

FOR the purpose of urging the Maryland General Assembly to pass and the Governor to sign legislation establishing a clear and enforceable commitment to finally move Maryland beyond coal-fired power plants, and to create a Coal Community Transition Fund to support impacted communities and workers.

R. H. H. H. *Bill 102*
Robert Stokes
Edwards
Maryland
Shirley
Shirley
Shirley

****The introduction of an Ordinance or Resolution by Councilmembers at the request of any person, firm or organization is a courtesy extended by the Councilmembers and not an indication of their position.**

Aencies

_____ Baltimore City Public School System	_____ Department of Public Works
_____ Baltimore Development Corporation	_____ Department of Real Estate
_____ City Solicitor	_____ Department of Recreation and Parks
_____ Comptroller's Office	_____ Department of Transportation
_____ Department of Audits	_____ Fire Department
_____ Department of Finance	_____ Health Department
_____ Department of General Services	_____ Mayor's Office of Employment Development
_____ Department of Housing and Community Development	_____ Mayor's Office of Human Services
_____ Department of Human Resources	_____ Mayor's Office of Information Technology
_____ Department of Planning	_____ Office of the Mayor
_____ Other: _____	_____ Police Department
_____ Other: _____	_____ Other: _____
_____ Other: _____	_____ Other: _____
_____ Board of Estimates	_____ Environmental Control Board
_____ Board of Ethics	_____ Fire & Police Employees' Retirement System
_____ Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals	_____ Labor Commissioner
_____ Comm. for Historical and Architectural Preservation	_____ Parking Authority Board
_____ Commission on Sustainability	_____ Planning Commission
_____ Employees' Retirement System	_____ Wage Commission
_____ Other: _____	_____ Other: _____
_____ Other: _____	_____ Other: _____
_____ Other: _____	_____ Other: _____

Boards and Commissions

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 19-0135R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Burnett, Henry, Bullock, Sneed, Cohen, Pinkett, Dorsey,
President Young, Councilmembers Scott, Clarke, Middleton, Reisinger Stokes
Introduced and adopted: February 4, 2019

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Supporting Coal Community Transition Legislation in Maryland

FOR the purpose of urging the Maryland General Assembly to pass and the Governor to sign legislation establishing a clear and enforceable commitment to finally move Maryland beyond coal-fired power plants, and to create a Coal Community Transition Fund to support impacted communities and workers.

Recitals

In 2016, Maryland enacted a law requiring the state to reduce climate pollution 40% below 2006 levels by 2030. Despite these long-term efforts, the City is presently in non-attainment for the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ground-level ozone pollution.

Currently, there are 6 remaining coal-fired power plants in Maryland, including two coal plants operating in close proximity to Baltimore, the Herbert Wagner Plant and the Brandon Shores Plant, located in Anne Arundel County. Together, all 6 plants emitted 9 million metric tons of climate disrupting carbon pollution, equivalent to over 40% of passenger vehicles on the road in Maryland.

Four of the state's remaining coal plants, including the Brandon Shores plant, routinely discharge arsenic, selenium, and mercury in concentrations that exceed the Environmental Protection Agency's Effluent Limitation Guidelines. In fact, a 2011 Natural Resources Defense Council report found that the Brandon Shores plant released the second highest amount of toxic air pollutants annually of any plant in the nation, approximately 13.1 million pounds. Furthermore, this plant discharges toxic metals directly into the Patapsco river.

Three of the state's remaining coal plants, including the Herbert Wagner plant, are operating without state-of-the-art pollution controls for smog-forming nitrogen oxides. Moreover, the Herbert Wagner plant is operating without state-of-the-art pollution controls for harmful sulfur dioxide and is one of the highest emitting power plants for sulfur dioxide (in lb/MMBtu) in the region.

It is well-documented that elevated sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide levels are leading causes of respiratory ailments such as asthma. Indeed, the asthma hospitalization rate in Baltimore is double the rate in Maryland and nearly triple the national average. Measures of poverty, especially median household income, are strongly correlated with asthma hospitalization and emergency room visit rates in Baltimore.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

Council Bill 19-0135R

1 The Maryland General Assembly should consider Coal Community Transition legislation that
2 would establish greenhouse gas emissions standards for coal plants. In effect, the legislation
3 should set pollution standards that force the closure of Maryland's 6 remaining coal-fired power
4 plants by 2025. Noting this impact, the legislation should create a transition fund for Maryland
5 communities affected by the phase-out of coal-fired plants. This fund should set aside monies
6 annually to protect and support communities and workers traditionally reliant on these fossil fuel
7 facilities. Specifically, the fund should provide job retraining assistance necessary to allow
8 displaced workers to re-enter the workforce in a timely manner, support the growth of clean
9 energy projects in impacted communities and the redevelopment of the former power plant sites,
10 add new family-sustaining, and wherever possible, union jobs to the local clean energy economy,
11 and be governed by communities and appropriate constituencies to ensure local control of
12 community benefits.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the
14 Baltimore City Council urges the Maryland General Assembly to pass and the Governor to sign
15 legislation establishing a clear and enforceable commitment to finally move Maryland beyond
16 coal-fired power plants and to create a Coal Community Transition Fund to support impacted
17 communities and workers.

18 AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, the
19 Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City House and Senate Delegations to the
20 Maryland General Assembly, the President of the Maryland Senate, the Maryland House
21 Speaker, the Honorable Chair of the House Economic Matters Committee, the Honorable Chair
22 of the House Environment and Transportation Committee, the Honorable Chair of the Senate
23 Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee, the Mayor, and the Mayor's Legislative
24 Liaison to the City Council.

INTRODUCTORY*
CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL _____ R
(Resolution)

APPROVED FOR FORM STYLE, AND TEXTUAL SUFFICIENCY
1/30/19 - TD
DEPT LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE

Introduced by: Councilmember Burnett

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

Supporting Coal Community Transition Legislation in Maryland

FOR the purpose of urging the Maryland General Assembly to pass and the Governor to sign legislation establishing a clear and enforceable commitment to finally move Maryland beyond coal-fired power plants, and to create a Coal Community Transition Fund to support impacted communities and workers.

Recitals

In 2016, Maryland enacted a law requiring the state to reduce climate pollution 40% below 2006 levels by 2030. Despite these long-term efforts, the City is presently in non-attainment for the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ground-level ozone pollution.

Currently, there are 6 remaining coal-fired power plants in Maryland, including two coal plants operating in close proximity to Baltimore, the Herbert Wagner Plant and the Brandon Shores Plant, located in Anne Arundel County. Together, all 6 plants emitted 9 million metric tons of climate disrupting carbon pollution, equivalent to over 40% of passenger vehicles on the road in Maryland.

Four of the state's remaining coal plants, including the Brandon Shores plant, routinely discharge arsenic, selenium, and mercury in concentrations that exceed the Environmental Protection Agency's Effluent Limitation Guidelines. In fact, a 2011 Natural Resources Defense Council report found that the Brandon Shores plant released the second highest amount of toxic air pollutants annually of any plant in the nation, approximately 13.1 million pounds. Furthermore, this plant discharges toxic metals directly into the Patapsco river.

Three of the state's remaining coal plants, including the Herbert Wagner plant, are operating without state-of-the-art pollution controls for smog-forming nitrogen oxides. Moreover, the Herbert Wagner plant is operating without state-of-the-art pollution controls for harmful sulfur dioxide and is one of the highest emitting power plants for sulfur dioxide (in lb/MMBtu) in the region.

It is well-documented that elevated sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide levels are leading causes of respiratory ailments such as asthma. Indeed, the asthma hospitalization rate in Baltimore is double the rate in Maryland and nearly triple the national average. Measures of poverty, especially median household income, are strongly correlated with asthma hospitalization

* WARNING: THIS IS AN UNOFFICIAL, INTRODUCTORY COPY OF THE BILL.
THE OFFICIAL COPY CONSIDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL IS THE FIRST READER COPY.

and emergency room visit rates in Baltimore.

The Maryland General Assembly should consider Coal Community Transition legislation that would establish greenhouse gas emissions standards for coal plants. In effect, the legislation should set pollution standards that force the closure of Maryland's 6 remaining coal-fired power plants by 2025. Noting this impact, the legislation should create a transition fund for Maryland communities affected by the phase-out of coal-fired plants. This fund should set aside monies annually to protect and support communities and workers traditionally reliant on these fossil fuel facilities. Specifically, the fund should provide job retraining assistance necessary to allow displaced workers to re-enter the workforce in a timely manner, support the growth of clean energy projects in impacted communities and the redevelopment of the former power plant sites, add new family-sustaining, and wherever possible, union jobs to the local clean energy economy, and be governed by communities and appropriate constituencies to ensure local control of community benefits.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the Baltimore City Council urges the Maryland General Assembly to pass and the Governor to sign legislation establishing a clear and enforceable commitment to finally move Maryland beyond coal-fired power plants and to create a Coal Community Transition Fund to support impacted communities and workers.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, the Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City House and Senate Delegations to the Maryland General Assembly, the President of the Maryland Senate, the Maryland House Speaker, the Honorable Chair of the House Economic Matters Committee, the Honorable Chair of the House Environment and Transportation Committee, the Honorable Chair of the Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee, the Mayor, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.

ACTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL

FEB 04 2019

FIRST READING (INTRODUCTION) _____ 20 _____

PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON _____ 20 _____

COMMITTEE REPORT AS OF _____ 20 _____

_____ FAVORABLE _____ UNFAVORABLE _____ FAVORABLE AS AMENDED _____ WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

SECOND READING: The Council's action being favorable (unfavorable), this City Council bill was (was not) ordered printed for Third Reading on:

_____ 20 _____

_____ Amendments were read and adopted (defeated) as indicated on the copy attached to this blue backing.

THIRD READING _____ 20 _____

_____ Amendments were read and adopted (defeated) as indicated on the copy attached to this blue backing.

THIRD READING (ENROLLED) _____ 20 _____

_____ Amendments were read and adopted (defeated) as indicated on the copy attached to this blue backing.

THIRD READING (RE-ENROLLED) _____ 20 _____

WITHDRAWAL _____ 20 _____

There being no objections to the request for withdrawal, it was so ordered that this City Council Ordinance be withdrawn from the files of the City Council.

President

Chief Clerk

SB148_LatinoCaucus_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Caucus, MD Latino

Position: FAV



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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WILL SMITH

TO: Senator Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Senator Brian J. Feldman, Vice Chair
Finance Committee Members

FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)

DATE: February 2, 2021

RE: SB148 Electric Generation – Transition from Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Plan and Fund (Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021)

The MLLC supports SB148 Electric Generation – Transition from Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Plan and Fund (Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021).

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of SB0148.

Coal plants are no longer viable energy options. They cost our health, environment, and if not ended soon, our futures. Coal plants are large emitters of mercury, lead, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and carbon dioxide, a potent greenhouse gas. Along with contributing to climate change, pollution from coal plants is linked to asthma, heart problems, and other chronic diseases.

Marginalized communities bear most of the health burden from coal-burning power plants. In a joint [report](#) by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Little Village Environmental Justice Organization, and the Indigenous Environmental Network, they stated that families who live near coal plants are disproportionately low-income and people of color. In Maryland, an [estimated 85%](#) of residents live in counties that do not meet EPA healthy air standards for smog pollution and our coal plants are a primary source of our smog pollution. This pollution is a leading cause for asthma, which disproportionately impacts our communities of color and our children. It is imperative that we phase out our coal plants before it is too late for our futures and next generations.

SB148 mandates and manages the necessary transition off coal power in Maryland by 2030. This bill also creates a Fossil Fuel Community Transition Fund and a Fossil Fuel Transition Advisory Council to mitigate economic impacts for employees. Coal plants have done enough damage and harm to our lives. It is time to take the required action for the well-being of all Marylanders.

The MLLC supports this bill and urges a favorable report on SB148.

SB148_IndivisibleHoCoMD_FAV_RichardDeutschmann.pdf

Uploaded by: Deutschmann, Richard

Position: FAV



SB148 – Electric Generation – Transition From Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Plan and Fund (Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021)

Testimony before Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

February 2, 2021

Position: Favorable

Mr. Chair, Madame Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Richard Deutschmann, and I represent the 700+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in support of SB148, to implement a timeline for phasing out of the state's coal-fired power plant fleet, while providing for a just transition for the affected workers. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members).

The world's leading climate scientists warn that we have 10 short years to dramatically reduce our climate-disrupting emissions. The Hill reports that more than 300 coal-fired power plants have shut down in the U.S., with this trend continuing during the previous, pro-coal administration. And the Union of Concerned Scientists has stated what nearly all climate scientists know – that the burning of coal is one of the worst offenders in directly causing global climate change, while also contributing mightily to air and water pollution and the associated public health impacts. It is clear that halting the burning of coal for our electrical power needs has to stop NOW, especially when cleaner, cheaper alternatives are available.



SB148 does just that, setting a firm retirement date for the remaining operational coal-fired power plants in Maryland. Most of this has already been accomplished, as the owners of the plants themselves have announced retirements before 2030. But it also does something else critical for this global change, and provides for a just transition for the fossil fuel workers who in some cases have been working at these plants for decades. The fossil industry helped fuel the industrial revolution and brought great wealth to this country. We need to recognize these workers and their communities, and ensure they continue to thrive in the transition to a clean energy economy.

Passage of this bill will also have numerous public health benefits. The burning of coal has well-known detrimental impacts to our air and water, including the emission of mercury, lead,

sulfur dioxide, nitrous oxides and particulates into our air, and acid drainage from coal mines and other water pollution from toxic coal ash ponds. The impacts include nearly all Marylanders living in an EPA non-attainment area for air quality, and high rates of asthma and other deadly lung diseases. These affects are disproportionately felt by our economically disadvantaged areas of the state. Cleaning up this air and water pollution will have profound positive health impacts for our children and future generations, and will reduce health care costs across the state.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We strongly urge a favorable report.

Richard Deutschmann
Columbia, MD 21045

SB148 Coal Transition Bill - SUPPORT.pdf

Uploaded by: Harbeson, Kristen

Position: FAV



February 2, 2021

SUPPORT SB148: Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021

Maryland League of Conservation Voters

Lynn Heller, Board Chair
Maris St. Cyr, Vice Chair
Michael Davis, Treasurer
Hon. Virginia Clagett
Stuart Clarke
Candace Dodson-Reed
Verna Harrison
Melanie Hartwig-Davis
Ed Hatcher
Hon. Steve Lafferty
Bonnie Norman
Katharine Thomas

Kim Coble
Executive Director

30 West Street
Suite C
Annapolis, MD 21401

410.280.9855
mdlcv.org
marylandconservation.org

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

Maryland League of Conservation Voters strongly supports SB148: Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021 and we thank Senators West and Feldman for their leadership on this issue.

In 2019, 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. HB1545 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, 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. When Covanta announced the closure of the Dickerson plant in Spring of 2020, they did so without considerations for the more than 100 workers whose livelihoods depended on it. This is why SB148 creates a worker and community transition fund to help transition current union workers with good, family supporting jobs into new, good, family sustaining jobs.

Maryland LCV strongly supports this important legislation and urges a favorable report on SB148.

IPL testimony on SB 0148 -MD Coal Community Transi

Uploaded by: Lacock-Nisly, Jonathan

Position: FAV

Jonathan Lacock-Nisly, Director of Faithful Advocacy
January 29, 2021

Testimony on SB 0148 –
SB 0148: Coal Community Transition Act
Finance Committee

Position: Favorable

Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA) supports SB 0148.

Congregations of many faith traditions all across our state are lighting the way to a coal free Maryland and a just transition for plant workers and their communities. Artist Caryl Henry Alexander, of Clinton, MD, designed the below piece to show the support of faith communities for this legislation. People of faith took pictures with the artwork in December with their Advent candles, Hanukkah candles, solstice lights, and more.

Take a second to look through these pictures, and join our faith communities in imagining the possibilities that a coal free Maryland and a just transition would offer for our health, our climate, and our shared Creation.



Caryl Henry Alexander of Clinton, MD poses with her artwork.



At left, Jakir Manela, Chief Executive Officer of the Pearlstone Center in Reisterstown, MD, and Nets Manela with their children

At right, Merikay Smith of the Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter Day Saints Kensington Ward, at her home in Germantown, MD, with her home grown Christmas tree



Kori Majeed of Masjid Muhammad in front of her solar powered home in Cheverly, MD



Joan Plisko, Community Sustainability Director of the Pearlstone Center in Reistertown, MD, and attendee of Baltimore Hebrew Congregation, with her menorah

Joelle Novey, Director of IPL-DMV, and Caryl Henry Alexander of Clinton, MD



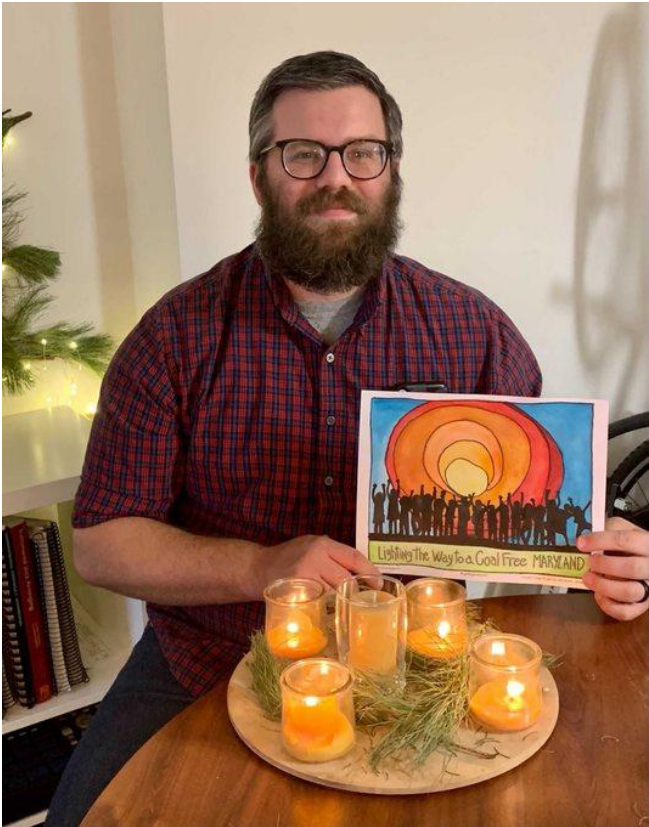


At left, Evonne Marzouk of Kemp Mill Synagogue in Silver Spring, MD



At right, a young supporter in St. Mary's County, MD lighting the way to a coal free Maryland

At right, Dustin Long of Sliver Spring United Methodist Church with his Advent wreath



At left, Sherie Koob of Middletown United Methodist Church with her Christmas tree



Deacon Laura Heller, leader of the Del-Md Synod ELCA Creation Care Team, and Lutheran lay leaders from across the state are lighting the way to a coal free Maryland



Elie, age 6, decorates his "Lighting the Way" artwork and poses with his menorah in Silver Spring, MD



Maryland members of the 8th Day Faith Community hold up Advent candles in lighting the way to a coal free Maryland

Volunteers with Avodah, the Jewish service corps, lighting the way to a coal free Maryland





Andrew Gohn of Tikkun Leil Shabbat in Silver Spring, MD and his daughter pose with their menorah



Laura File Long of Sliver Spring United Methodist Church with her Christmas tree



Mike Koob of Middletown United Methodist Church with his Christmas tree



Members of the Jewish Climate Action Network DMV are lighting the way to a coal free Maryland. In this photo, they lift up plants in celebration of Tu BiShvat, the new year of the trees.

Last year, Maryland faith communities delivered the message that six coal fired power plants were six too many, posing with signs to show support for the previous iteration of the Coal Community Transition Act.

Below, you can see those pictures from early 2020 offered in support of last year's bill.

The pandemic ended the General Assembly before action could be taken on that legislation, but in the time since, one of those plants has closed and another four have announced plans to do so. As people of faith, we care for both our neighbors with asthma, exacerbated by coal pollution, and our neighbors who work at the coal plants. These workers and their communities cannot be left to the whims of the market.

For all of our neighbors, we urge the committee to give SB 0148 a favorable report.

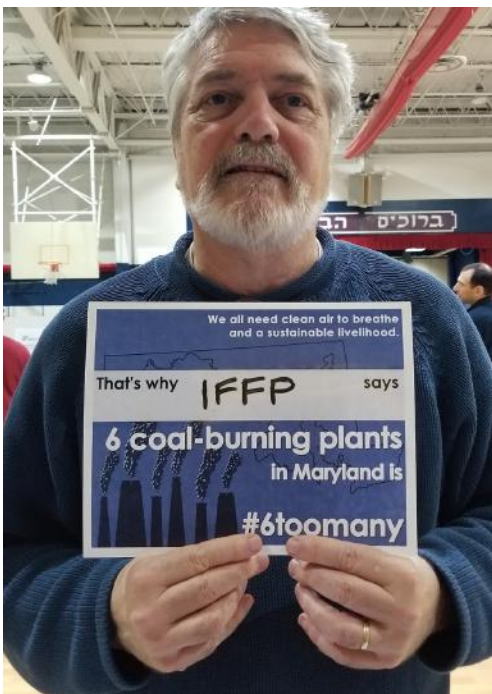
Jonathan Lacock-Nisly
Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)
In support of HB 1545
March 5, 2020

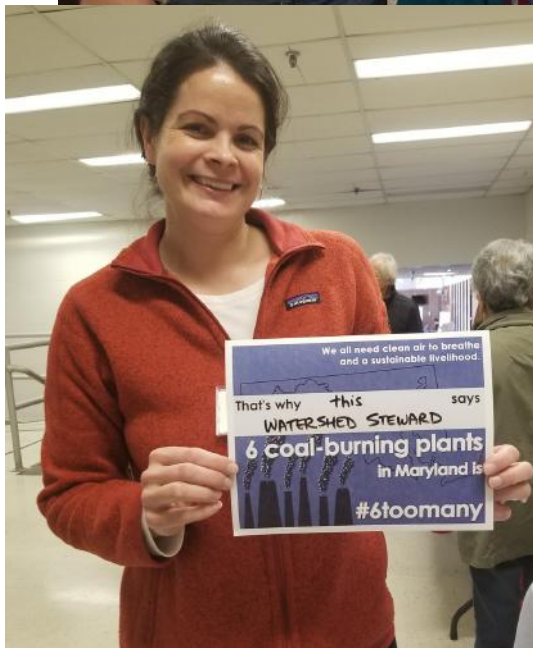


Maryland's Faith Communities Speak Out for a COAL COMMUNITY TRANSITION

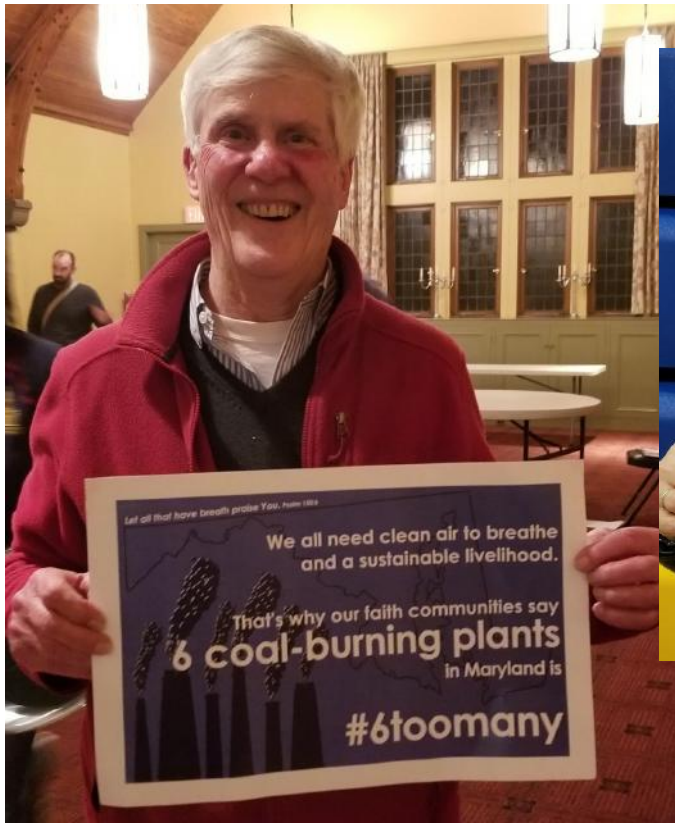


Communities of many faiths across the state, from Rockville to Annapolis and Frederick to Towson, including Bishop Eugene Sutton and members of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland (above), support a just transition off of coal.



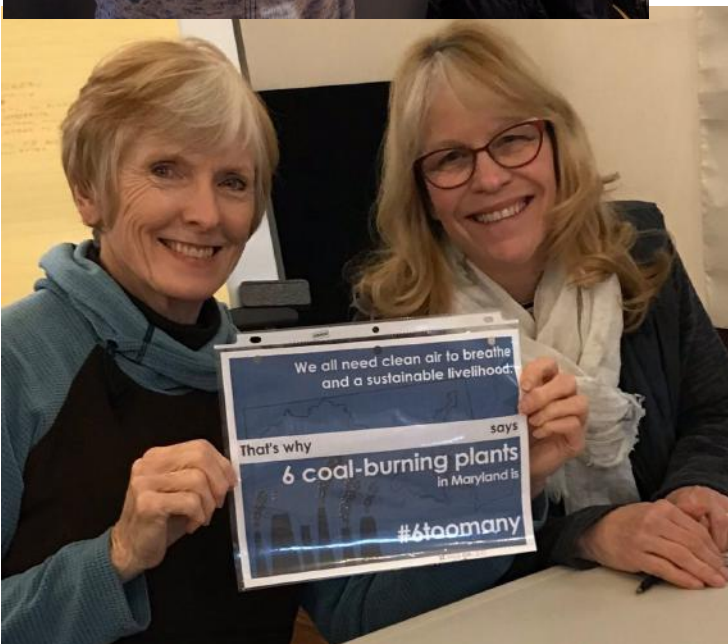
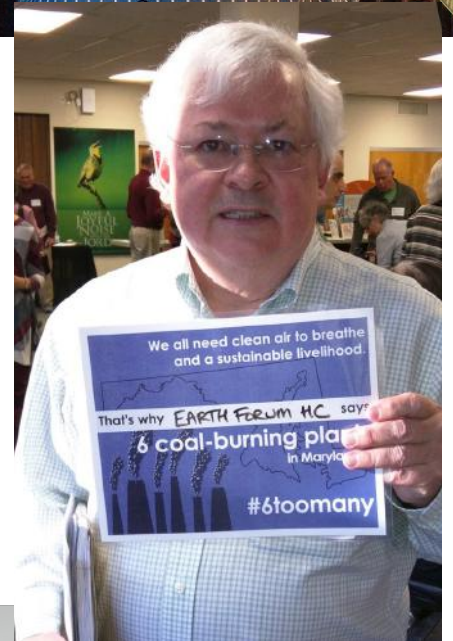
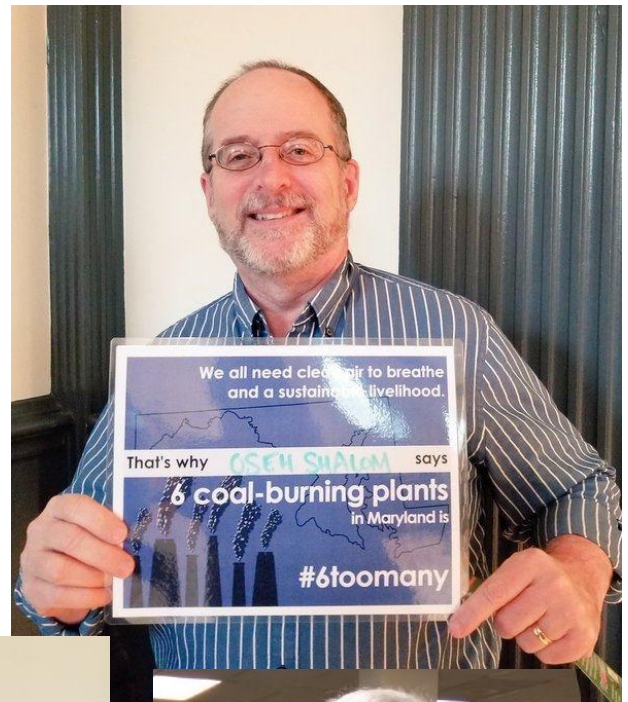
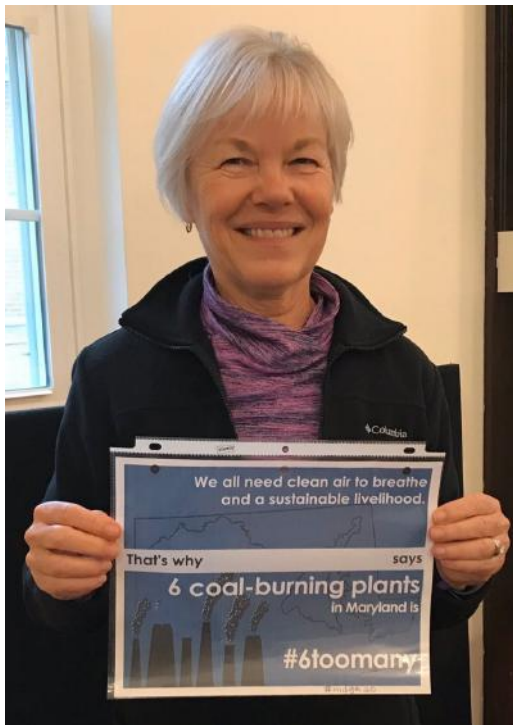


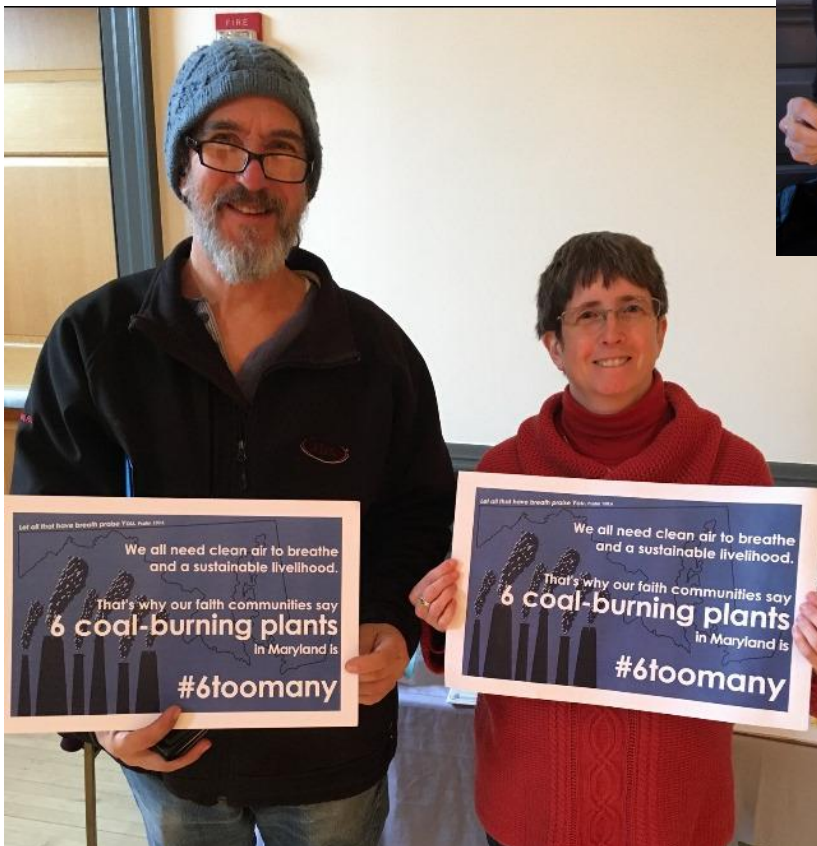
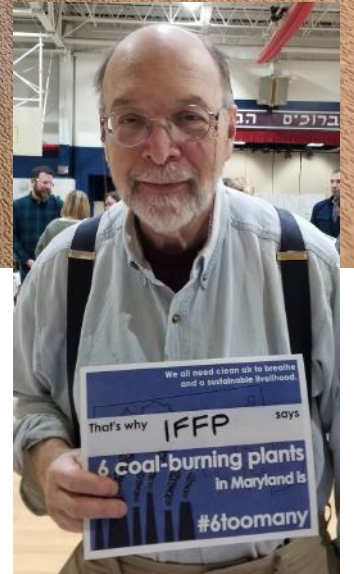




#6toomany







SB0148_COAL_MLC_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Plante, Cecilia

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY FOR SB0148

ELECTRIC GENERATION – TRANSITION FROM FOSSIL FUELS – CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS RATE AND TRANSITION PLAN AND FUND (MARYLAND COAL COMMUNITY TRANSITION ACT OF 2021)

Bill Sponsor: Senator West

Committee: Finance

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0148 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our Coalition members are very conscious of the effects of climate change, and how it impacts our lives and our future. We are frustrated by how long it takes to rid ourselves of fossil fuel infrastructure and we are anxious to move forward with clean energy. We want to do our part in getting to net zero emissions as quickly as possible.

However, we also recognize that many of the solutions that have been contemplated to rid ourselves of fossil fuel infrastructure do not take into account what effect closing down that infrastructure will have on workers. This bill acknowledges that effect and sets aside funds to help workers transition.

We desperately need to close down coal-fired power plants as quickly as possible. They produce some of the worst greenhouse gas emissions and are toxic for the environment and for anyone unfortunate enough to live nearby. We also should do everything we can to keep our workforce productive by retraining them in new and cleaner technologies.

This bill provides a path to a better future. We embrace the concept of a just transition – one that helps workers stay productive by allowing them to transition to other jobs as we close down industries that are no longer viable.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

SB148 - Coal Community Transition - FIN - West - 2

Uploaded by: Posner, Mark

Position: FAV

Committee: Finance
Testimony on: SB148 “Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021”
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 2, 2021

We the undersigned organizations respectfully request a favorable report on SB148, the Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021.

As Maryland confronts the climate crisis, it is abundantly clear that the state must undertake a managed transition off of coal-fired power generation. The past 12 months have seen a remarkable shift in the coal industry in Maryland, underscoring the urgent need to pass legislation to manage the transition off coal. Five of the six coal-fired power plants in Maryland have either retired or announced their plans to retire in the coming years. With this transition clearly happening and workers already experiencing layoffs, the General Assembly must act this year to support impacted workers and the communities which historically have been overburdened by coal pollution.

Coal, the dirtiest fossil fuel on the electric grid, produces significant levels of harmful and toxic pollution, including smog-forming nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, mercury, lead, arsenic, selenium, and more. Coal has polluted Maryland’s air and waterways, including the Chesapeake Bay, for generations, and this pollution often has disproportionately impacted communities of color. In fact, the six Maryland coal plants graded in the NAACP’s 2016 *Coal Blooded* report received dismal environmental justice scores of F, D-, D, D, D+, and C.[1]

Maryland’s coal-fired power plants also are significant contributors to the climate crisis. The state will not meet the standards of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act nor international climate targets without ceasing burning coal at power plants. Analysis of international climate targets makes it clear that the U.S. and other higher-income countries must stop burning coal within a decade.[2] Further, Maryland’s own laws explicitly describe the state’s goal to “eliminate carbon-fueled generation from the state’s electric grid.”[3]

SB148 is a critical step in this process because it codifies dates by which Maryland power plants will stop burning coal, funds new worker and community transition programs, and creates a longer-term fossil fuel transition planning process that will engage even more impacted stakeholders.

In November 2020, the Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC) – a Commission comprised of state agencies, scientists, environmental organizations, clean energy and fossil fuel representatives, and representatives of organized labor unions -- called on the General Assembly to pass legislation that manages the state’s transition off coal:

The General Assembly should establish a clear, enforceable schedule to responsibly manage Maryland’s transition off its remaining coal-fired power plants by no later than 2030 and replace the capacity with equivalent non-coal-fired power, including the creation of a workforce and community transition plan to support laid-off workers and impacted communities.[4]

The Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021 will respond to the MCCC’s recommendation and enable the state to responsibly transition off coal in response to the climate crisis. Please provide a favorable report on SB148.

Sincerely,

Reverend Kobi Little
Baltimore City NAACP

Jenn Aiosa
Blue Water Baltimore

Jamie DeMarco
CCAN Action Fund

Nanci Wilkinson
Cedar Lane Environmental Justice Ministry

Evan Borodin
Climate Change Institute

Donald Goldberg
Climate Law & Policy Project

Lore Rosenthal
Greenbelt Climate Action Network

Richard Deutschmann
Indivisible Howard County

Jodi Rose
Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake

Nina Cardin
Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human Rights

Cecilia Plante
Maryland Legislative Coalition

Diana Younts
Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing

Staci Hartwell
NAACP Maryland State Conference

Bruce Ho
NRDC

Phillip Musegaas
Potomac Riverkeeper Network

Mark Southerland
Safe Skies Maryland

Emily Cowan
Smart Growth Maryland

Alice Wilkerson
Strong Future Maryland

Diana Younts
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee

Phil Webster
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Betsy Nicholas
Waterkeepers Chesapeake

Monica O'Connor
WISE

Jeff Weisner
350 MoCo

Ricarra Jones
1199 SEIU

[1] <https://www.naacp.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/CoalBlooded.pdf>

[2] https://climateanalytics.org/media/report_coal_phase_out_2019.pdf

[3] Maryland Public Utilities Article §7-702(a)(2)

[4]

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Air/ClimateChange/MCCC/Documents/MCCCAnnualReport2020.pdf>

SB148 - Coal Community Transition Act of 2021 - FI

Uploaded by: Smedick, David

Position: FAV



7338 Baltimore Ave
Suite 102
College Park, MD 20740

Committee: Finance

Testimony on: SB148 – “Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021

Position: Favorable (with sponsor amendments)

Hearing Date: February 2, 2021

The Sierra Club and its over 70,000 Maryland members and supporters respectfully requests a favorable report on SB148, the Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021 with sponsor amendments.

As Maryland confronts the climate crisis it is abundantly clear that the state must urgently commit to a managed transition off coal-fired power generation. The past 12 months have seen a remarkable shift in the coal industry in Maryland, underscoring the urgent need to pass legislation to manage the transition off coal. Five of the six coal-fired power plants in Maryland have either retired or announced their plans to retire in the coming years. With this transition clearly happening and workers already experiencing layoffs, the General Assembly must act this year to support impacted workers and the communities which historically have been overburdened by coal pollution.

SB148 performs three primary functions to help manage this transition, based on identified best practices by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), the Maryland Commission on Climate Change, and other states facing a similar shift in the coal industry.

- First, the bill codifies dates by which Maryland’s power plants will stop burning coal, consistent with dates formally announced by the 5 of the 6 plant’s owners, resulting in all of the companies withdrawing the opposition they had last session to the bill. The timeline is spread across the 2020s. The establishment and codification of a facility retirement timeline is consistent with a best practice identified by the MDE for “Just Transition” away from fossil fuel facilities.
- Second, the bill establishes and provides an initial allocation of funds to a new financial account created to support workers impacted moving away from coal and communities that have borne the brunt of coal pollution for decades. The fund will be eligible to receive funds from state resources, private contributions, and, critically, federal resources.
- Third, the bill establishes a new longer-term fossil fuel transition planning process that will be informed by numerous public meetings and stakeholder conversations, and specifically prescribes that this Council include representatives from local communities, organized labor, state agencies and elected officials, and industry representatives.

Maryland must act during the 2021 session on SB148 in order to set itself up for success in these critical next few years of transition in Maryland announced by the companies. The newly-inaugurated Biden administration signed an Executive Order on January 27th, 2021 that establishes an Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization. The Interagency Working Group will identify financial resources to be made available to coal communities facing the transition away from these power plants. Maryland must pass SB148 to ensure that it is ready to engage with and accept support from the federal government during our transition.

Founded in 1892, the Sierra Club is America’s oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization. The Maryland Chapter has over 75,000 members and supporters, and the Sierra Club nationwide has over 800,000 members and nearly four million supporters.

Coal is the dirtiest fossil fuel on the electric grid, producing significant levels of harmful and toxic pollution including smog-forming nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, mercury, lead, arsenic, selenium, and more. Coal has polluted Maryland's air and waterways, including the Chesapeake Bay, for generations, and often that pollution has disproportionately impacted communities of color. In fact, the six Maryland coal plants graded in the NAACP's 2016 *Coal Blooded* report received dismal environmental justice scores of F, D-, D, D, D+, and C.ⁱ

Maryland's coal-fired power plants are also severe contributors to the climate crisis and the state will not meet state Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act nor international climate targets without ceasing burning coal at power plants. Analysis of international climate targets makes it clear that the U.S. and other higher-income countries must stop burning coal within a decade.ⁱⁱ Maryland's own laws explicitly describe the state's goal to "eliminate carbon-fueled generation from the state's electric grid."ⁱⁱⁱ

SB148 is a critical step in this process because it codifies dates by which Maryland power plants will stop burning coal, funds new worker and community transition programs, and creates a longer-term fossil fuel transition planning process that will engage even more impacted stakeholders.

In November 2020 the Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC) – a Commission comprised of state agencies, scientists, environmental organizations, clean energy and fossil fuel representatives, and representatives of organized labor unions -- called on the General Assembly to pass legislation that manages the state's transition off coal. The MCCC recommended:

The General Assembly should establish a clear, enforceable schedule to responsibly manage Maryland's transition off its remaining coal-fired power plants by no later than 2030 and replace the capacity with equivalent non-coal-fired power, including the creation of a workforce and community transition plan to support laid-off workers and impacted communities.^{iv}

The Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021 will respond to the MCCC's recommendation and help the state more responsibly transition off coal in response to the climate crisis. Please provide a favorable report on SB148.

David Smedick
Senior Campaign Representative
Beyond Coal and Dirty Fuels Campaigns
David.Smedick@SierraClub.org

Josh Tulkin
Chapter Director
Josh.Tulkin@MDSierra.org

ⁱ <https://www.naacp.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/CoalBlooded.pdf>.

ⁱⁱ https://climateanalytics.org/media/report_coal_phase_out_2019.pdf.

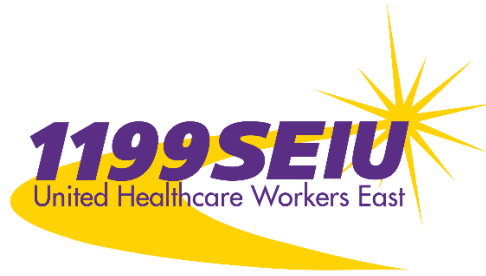
ⁱⁱⁱ Maryland Public Utilities Article §7-702(a)(2).

^{iv} <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Air/ClimateChange/MCCC/Documents/MCCCAnnualReport2020.pdf>.

Testimony-SB148-MD Coal Community Transition Act o

Uploaded by: Stevenson, Christopher

Position: FAV



Testimony on SB148
Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021
Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Finance Committee:

My name is Ricarra Jones, and I am the Political Director with 1199SEIU- the largest healthcare union in the nation, where we represent over 10,000 healthcare workers in Maryland. Given the vast inequities in public health caused by greenhouse gas emissions, we are supportive of SB0148- The Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021.

For our members, the health outcomes caused by coal plants affect both their professional and personal lives. Professionally, their workloads and resources are stretched thin responding to coal-related illness. Coal plants discharge heavy metals like mercury, arsenic, and selenium, which end up in bodies of water and soil. Mercury impairs brain development, arsenic is known to cause cancer, and selenium damages the nervous system. Coal plants are also major contributors to smog, which lead to respiratory problems such as asthma.

Personally, our members- a majority of whom are minorities- are statistically unequally exposed to the negative impacts of coal plants. All six of Maryland's coal plants received a D grade average in the NAACP's 2016 Coal Blooded report, which measures environmental justice. According to a Maryland report on asthma, emergency room visits for Black residents in Charles County were about three times higher for white residents.

With these facts about coal plants and opportunities to invest in clean energy, Maryland should pass this Act for the safety of our members and all Marylanders. Not only would this Act improve public health outcomes, but it would also provide support for historically polluted areas, a majority of which are in minority communities. These communities have been harmed by environmental pollution for years and deserve compensation. The state of Maryland may never be able to actually pinpoint all of the illnesses and complications that have impacted Black and Brown communities due to coal plants, but enacting this legislation is the first step for rehabilitation for these communities. We also strongly support this bill because of the funds dedicated to clean-energy job training.

For this reason, we believe that this Act will create the necessary structure in place to decrease coal pollution and improve public health for all Marylanders. We ask that you support the Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021.

Respectfully,

Ricarra Jones
Maryland/DC Political Director
1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East
Cell: (443) 844-6513

Senator West - SB148 - Maryland Coal Transition Ac

Uploaded by: West, Christopher

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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Annapolis, Maryland 21401
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1134 York Road, Suite 200
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410-823-7087

February 2, 2021

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

RE: SB 148 – Electric Generation – Transition from Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account (Maryland Coal Transition Act of 2021)

Dear Chairman Kelley and Members of the Committee:

This bill is a significant bill, and I greatly appreciate Senator Feldman's co-sponsorship. I also want to acknowledge the yeoman's work by the Sierra Club on this issue. Simply stated, we would not be here considering this bill today but for the commitment of the Sierra Club to improving the quality of the air in Maryland.

This bill establishes a carbon dioxide emissions limit for all five 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 soon.

You may recall that this bill came before the Finance Committee last year. In the meantime, there have been significant changes. A year ago, there were six remaining coal burning electrical generating plants in Maryland. Last summer, one of them, the Dickerson plant on the Potomac River in upper Montgomery County was abruptly shuttered by its owner. Then about a month later, the owner of the Chalk Point plant on the Patuxent River in Prince George's County announced that it would close down its coal-fired electrical generating units by June 1, 2021. That left four remaining plants.

Last year, I worked out a deal with AES, the owner of the Warrior Run plant in Cumberland, to cease burning coal to generate electricity in 2030. So that plant is scheduled to stop burning coal at the end of the decade.

The next shoe to drop occurred last October when Talen Energy Corp. announced that it will eliminate the burning of coal at all Talen facilities nationwide, including at the H. A. Wagner plant and the Brandon Shores plant on the Patapsco River just south of the Key Bridge. These plants are scheduled to cease coal-fired operations by the end of 2025. This only left a single remaining plant, the Morgantown plant on the Potomac River in Charles County.

I was involved in negotiations with Gen On Holdings, the owner of the Morgantown plant, and reached an agreement with that firm in December to shut down the Morgantown facility in 2027. A public announcement to this effect was released by Gen On on December 21st, just a month ago.

So at the time of this hearing last winter, only one of the six coal-burning facilities had committed to close. As of today, just a year later, the Dickerson facility has closed and all five of the remaining facilities have committed to close in 2021, 2025, 2027 and 2030 respectively,

The first three pages of this bill merely require the five remaining facilities to indeed cease burning coal at the times that their owners have committed to cease burning coal. It thus reflects and ratifies the decisions already announced by the owners of these facilities.

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 148 (from pages 3 through 14) deals with extensive measures to provide a fair transition for the employees. The bill creates a Fossil Fuel Community Transition Fund 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 #3 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. Closure announcements crop up in trade publications monthly. The new Administration in Washington, D. C. is likely to take steps to accelerate the transition away from coal.

Before I conclude, let me address a couple of the concerns that were raised about this bill last year. First, there is the question of whether Maryland needs the coal-burning plants and might experience blackouts without them. Well, the fact is that Maryland's coal plants sit idle nearly the entire year. Typically, they only operate for about 17 days each year. The regional electrical transmission system known as PJM has then sitting on standby. The fact that the planned closures will be staggered throughout this decade will enable PJM to plan ahead to cover those 17 days.

The second concern is that the workers in these plants need their jobs. But the owners of the plants have announced they are going to close. Burning coal is far more expensive these days than other ways of creating electricity. 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, the employees will be left high and dry, without any financial support as they seek to transition to new jobs.

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

2021Audubon testimony FOR SB0148 Coal.pdf

Uploaded by: Wilson, David

Position: FAV



State Office
Patterson Park Audubon Center
Important Bird Area Program
2901 East Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21224
Tel: 410-558-2473
md.audubon.org

January 29, 2021

The Maryland Senate Finance Committee

SB0148 Maryland Coal Community Transition Act

Position: Support

Maryland remains home to five large coal-fired power plants contributing to public health problems, climate change, and forest and stream degradation.

For this reason, Audubon Maryland-DC asks you to vote SB0148 out of committee and onto the floor. We are one of 22 state programs of the National Audubon Society with approximately 19,000 members in Maryland.

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. Surface water and soil acidification have been especially bad for the state's trout streams and many species of birds, especially at high elevations.

Over 85% of Marylanders live in counties that do not meet EPA healthy air standards for smog pollution, and our coal plants are a major source of smog-forming pollution. Smog exacerbates respiratory problems like asthma, which disproportionately impacts children, the elderly, and communities of color in Maryland. It kills birds outright.

Coal plants are the #2 source of in-state climate pollution. They provide less than 14% of the state's electricity but generate over 75% of the pollution from in-state electricity generators.

Other states, like New York, New Mexico, Montana, Colorado, and Washington, are already implementing coal transition policies. Coal plants are on their way out across the country. Maryland needs a plan to responsibly guide us off coal and ensure that our workers and impacted communities are making decisions about how to thrive in the clean energy economy.

Currently every one of the state's coal plants is sited in marginalized communities. This legislation will create a Coal Community Transition Plan and Account, governed by those who will be most impacted by the power plant closures, and supported by a dedicated, protected funding stream to provide worker retraining, fill wage gaps, supplement retirement security, and support the tax-bases of affected localities.

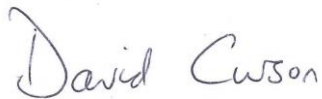
It's time to free birds and impacted communities from the oppression of polluted air and a degraded environment. Maryland cannot meet its climate action goals and transition to a cleaner

and safer energy economy while continuing to burn coal for power. In 2021, we need a plan to phase out our state's coal-fired power plants, protect birdlife, and support the impacted workforce with a worker transition plan.

Please vote SB0148 out of committee and vote FOR it when it hits the floor.

Sincerely,

David Curson, PhD

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "David Curson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Director of Bird Conservation
Audubon Maryland-DC

SB148 Amendments GenOn Support Letter 012721.pdf

Uploaded by: Mayhew, Kim

Position: FWA



GenOn Holdings, Inc.
1360 Post Oak Boulevard, Suite 200
Houston, Texas 77056

January 27, 2020

Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

SB 148 - SUPPORT WITH SPONSOR AMENDMENTS

Dear Chair Kelley and members of the Senate Finance Committee

GenOn Holdings, Inc., owner of electric power generating facilities in Charles, Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties offers its support, with sponsor amendments, for Senate Bill 148.

The proposed legislation sets the stage for GenOn to retire all of its coal-fired generating units by 2027. The sponsor amendments change the retirement date of the coal-fired units at Morgantown facility in Charles County to 2027, consistent with GenOn's recent December 2020 announcement to retire the units by 2027. GenOn previously announced the retirement of its Chalk Point coal-fired units in Prince Georges County in June 2021, codified in the bill, and retired its Dickerson coal-fired units in Montgomery County in 2020.

Staffed and operated by our Maryland workforce, GenOn's coal-fired generating units have supplied cost effective, 24/7 sources of electricity to Maryland residents and businesses for as long as 60 years. Over time, the Maryland coal-fired units have been, to some degree, displaced by newer, more efficient sources of electric power. Our units shifted to supplying electricity only during periods of summer heat and winter cold.

We believe SB 148, with sponsor amendments, reflects this changing reality in use, creates a critical and transitional glide path for us to retire our remaining coal-fired units at Morgantown and Chalk Point and, importantly, provides for needed funding and resources to facilitate the transition of our employees to new careers in the evolving energy economy. We appreciate the support of Senator West and Delegate Brooks in bringing this important legislation to the Maryland General Assembly.

For these reasons, we urge the Committee to pass SB 148 with the sponsor's amendments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Freysinger', is written over a faint, larger blue signature that appears to read 'Dave Freysinger'.

Dave Freysinger, CEO, GenOn Holdings, Inc.

SB 148 - MoCo - DEP (GA 21).pdf

Uploaded by: Samman, Amy

Position: FWA



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

SB 148

DATE: January 29, 2021

SPONSOR: Senators West and Feldman

ASSIGNED TO: Finance

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

POSITION: Support With Amendment (Department of Environmental Protection)

Electric Generation – Transition From Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Plan and Fund (Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021)

Senate Bill 148 establishes a cap on carbon dioxide emissions for the existing electric generating stations in the State that burn coal. The bill also establishes a Fossil Fuel Community Transition Fund and Advisory Council to provide grants for individuals and communities affected by the transition from fossil fuels and the retirement of electric generating units.

Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (MCDEP) supports Senate Bill 148 with an amendment. 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 and State in achieving its target of eliminating greenhouse gas emissions entirely.

Last year, GenOn initiated the deactivation and closure process of its three coal-fired units in Dickerson, Maryland. The bill provides that anyone who was “terminated from employment or whose contract was terminated, due to the permanent retirement of an electric generating unit that resulted in the displacement of at least 20 workers” on or after May 15, 2020 would be eligible to seek support from the Fossil Fuel Community Transition Fund. This will allow many of the employees impacted by the closure of the Dickerson units to access employment transition programs established by the Fund.

As drafted, the bill requires the owners of electric generating units that are currently operating to report to the Advisory Council about the employee layoffs on an annual basis. MCDEP recommends an amendment to require owners of “electric generating units that were permanently retired on or after May 15, 2020” to also provide this information. This would

ensure the employee data for the Dickerson unit employees is also reported to the Advisory Council. The suggested amendment language is below.

For the foregoing reasons, Montgomery County respectfully requests a favorable with amendment Committee report on Senate Bill 148.

Page 10, Line 23 after “UNIT” insert:

“OR AN ELECTRIC GENERATING UNIT PERMANENTLY RETIRED ON OR AFTER MAY 15, 2020”

SB 148 Opposition.pdf

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



TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF SB 148 Electric Generation-Transition Fund February 2, 2021

To: Hon. Delores G. Kelley, Chair, and members of the Senate Finance Committee
From: Tom Clark, Political Director, IBEW Local 26

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, I ask that you join with me and our 10,000 members in **opposition** to SB 148. This bill is trying to solve a national and global problem with local closures. This bill will result in the state of Maryland purchasing and consuming power generated by coal in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio. We all want green energy, but innovation has not yet solved the problem of storing solar energy. Until then we are just exporting our jobs to neighboring states, while keeping the pollution. Smog knows no borders!

Along with the inability to store solar energy and Maryland's willingness to export these jobs to other states, I also find some flaws that will drastically harm the lives of the very citizens that you lead. You cap the fund for only those units with 20 or more employees, leaving the families of these dwindling units, out in the cold. It is also stated to only include Maryland residents, and we do live in a very transient area, with many commuters. With that requirement, even more facilities will fall below the 20-employee threshold. Using the transition fund for only those within 3 years of retirement is harming the middle-aged electrician who will lose his or her job, yet on page 12 (5) it seems that you are willing to handout funds to everyone but the "displaced worker. On page 7 your replacement refers to "family sustaining" wages, that is very vague and should be prevailing wages (market rate). On the same note of vagueness, you use "affordable" deductibles and co pays. Can you please define "affordable"? Also noted is the term "residents net income", where you evidently are taking into account multi-income families. Single income, multi-income, all families are hurt by this bill.

In conclusion, I believe this bill is being used as a testing ground for other states. To my Sisters and Brothers in labor, this is life changing legislation, not an experiment to show other state houses across the country. These same Sisters and Brothers, especially the younger group are being trained by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers right now for green energy jobs of the future. We are ready, the technology to store solar energy is not. The state will be simply exporting our jobs until we can produce and store the power we consume. This technology maybe 10 years way. Perhaps a bill to encourage the bright young minds of Maryland to discover these technologies would be more effective than taking away well-paying jobs that this bill mandates. I ask that you please **oppose** SB 148 in its entirety. We all want what is best for the Freestate, we all want a cleaner environment. Let's get there together and not sell our jobs to other locales.

Thank you,

Tom Clark, IBEW member and proud Marylander





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



Chartered 1892
Washington, D.C.



IBEW 24 Oppose SB 148 w IO statement.pdf

Uploaded by: Demchuk, Pete

Position: UNF

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

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21230

JOHN L. RANKIN, President
DAVID W. SPRINGHAM, JR., Recording Secretary
MICHAEL J. McHALE, Financial Secretary
PETER P. DEMCHUK, Business Manager

OFFICE:

2701 W. PATAPSCO AVE
SUITE 200

Phone: 410-247-5511

FAX: 410-536-4338

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 IMPORE 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.”

SB 148 - IBEW 1900.pdf

Uploaded by: Edwards, Donna

Position: UNF



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



1400 Mercantile Lane – Suite 256 – Largo, Maryland 20774

Office: (301) 322-6030 Fax: (301) 322-6181

Representing the Employees of
Potomac Electric Power Co., GenOn Energy and Washington Gas

Proudly Sewing Our Nation's Capital

January 29, 2021

Senate Bill 148 – Electric Generation – Transition from Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions
Rate and Transition Plan and Fund (Maryland Coal Community Transition Act
of 2021)

Senate Finance Committee

OPPOSE

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jerry R. Williford Jr. I am the President/Business Manager/Financial Secretary of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local Union 1900.

IBEW Local 1900 presently represents 133 employees working at 4 coal generating units which are targeted by Senate Bill 148 which you are considering. These units are at two GenOn Energy generating plants in Maryland. The Chalk Point plant is located in southern Prince George's County in Aquasco, Maryland, Morgantown Generating Station is located in Charles County in Newburg, Maryland.

We also represent workers in Frederick, Maryland office of Washington Gas and at Pepco in Washington D.C. Combined, these three companies employ approximately 1100 Local 1900 members.

The workers that we represent at the three GenOn plants earn tens of millions of dollars annually in wages alone. Their average wage is \$47.31 per hour straight time. Their average annual compensation excluding overtime is \$98,404 per year. In total this translates to over \$13,000,000 annually in base wages for the entire group.

Our Brothers and Sisters at GenOn also enjoy a defined pension, contribute to 401(k) accounts and have a robust health insurance plan. They have paid sick leave and vacation. A guaranteed 40-hour workweek provides them a stable, long-term employment.

This proposed legislation puts a large majority of jobs at risk at these plants. The workers' job skills cannot be easily transitioned to other occupations should they lose their jobs. Maintaining and running a power plant is very specialized as I am sure that you know. It is hard to believe that these workers will be able to transition to a meaningful career. Apprenticeship programs are for the young, those just starting out. Presently over 95 GenOn employees are over the age of 40.

These employees are at a vulnerable point in their careers. Many have spent 20, 25 and even over 30 years working at their respective plants. All these employees would lose out on a full dignified pension because they have not reached retirement age.

A very important part that cannot be calculated is the value of working under a collective bargaining agreement. Union workers also having a union that represents them through a grievance and arbitration process to ensure fairness in the day to day employer employee relationship.

The union employees at GenOn have had decades of collective Bargaining agreements negotiated by IBEW Local 1900. Presently we have a relationship that is respectful with both the union members and with GenOn management, which is immensely helpful in resolving disputes.

I would respectfully request that you allow the market decide the future of these generating units, not random dates picked to place unachievable requirements on them.

On behalf of the 1100 active members of IBEW Local 1900, I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify in **opposition** of Senate Bill 148.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jerry R. Williford Jr." in a cursive script.

Jerry R. Williford Jr.

President/Business Manager/ Financial Secretary
IBEW Local Union 1900

SB 148 - IBEW 307.pdf

Uploaded by: Edwards, Donna

Position: UNF



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

A.F.L. – C.I.O. – C.F.L.

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, 2 2021

To: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs committee

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

Subject: SB 148

Position: Strongly oppose

Dear, Honorable Chairman Pinsky, and Committee.

I am the Business Manager of the IBEW L.U.307 out of Cumberland MD.

I strongly oppose the SB148. The Electric Generation-transition from fossil fuels will destroy the jobs that provide health care and a living wage for the workers at the AES power house and also the workers that are employed through contractors that do the maintenance work on the plant.

Once again we strongly oppose SB 148 and ask the committee to give it unfavorable vote.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rodney E. Rice". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Rodney Rice
IBEW L.U. 307
Business Manager

SB 148 - Maryland Coal Community Transition Act.pd

Uploaded by: Edwards, Donna

Position: UNF



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

**SB 148 – Electric Generation – Transition From Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions
Rate and Transition Plan and Fund (Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021)
Senate Finance Committee
February 2, 2021**

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 148 – Electric Generation – Transition From Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Plan and Fund (Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021). 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 148 leads with the environment instead of workers. It summarily closes operations at coal fired power plants over an extremely abbreviated timeline – with the first to close only three years from now. The bill allots Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF) money to a 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, a commitment to a Just Transition cannot rely on the ephemeral nature of SEIF, which is based on unreliable payments into it, and multiple ways it is already committed to other projects. A real

discussion of transitioning our energy, and, more importantly, thousands of jobs, involves appropriating real money to address the challenges.

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 grow, with population increases.

We ask that you help us re-define our priorities on climate change and clean energy jobs. While the bill attempts to describe a transition plan and a working group to tackle the challenges of a transition are notable upgrades to last year's bill, it is still woefully insufficient in addressing the needs of displaced workers and affected communities. We ask that you join with workers in ensuring that our transition to a post-carbon energy economy lifts everyone and leaves no one behind. SB 148 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 148.

SB 148 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Guido, Jeffry

Position: UNF



Maryland Senate – Finance Committee

Chair: Delores G. Kelley

Vice Chair: Brian J. Feldman

Senate Bill 148 – Transition From Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Plan and Fund (Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021)

Position: Oppose

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 Building Trades Council opposes SB 148. To be clear we are not climate change deniers, but feel the need to oppose this bill for the following reasons:

1. Closure dates listed in the bill do not coincide with dates listed by the Owners i.e. Morgantown schedule for closure by the owner is 2027 not 2024, H.A. Wagner is 2030 and Warrior Run does not have a closure date.
2. Page 4 line 13 (1) A minimum of 20 workers required for displaced worker designation.
3. Page 4 line 19 (3) What documentation is required and for duration of time is considered adequate before you can say “unable to replace lost wages”
4. Line 21 What documentation of lost wages and percentages is required and to whom is it reported to. Does unemployment compensation count?
5. Is the Fund codified or arbitrary to the whim of the Administration.
6. Page 6 line 18 – 2. Why is youth apprenticeship being included to retrain displaced workers? Aren’t these workers out of High School already?

If the plan is to transition from fossil fuels the following systems must be put into each State public works projects for renovation and new construction RFP to include green roofs, solar, wind, geothermal, rain water catchment and the thermal skin of buildings required in any building specifications going forward. Furthermore MWh are not a one to one trade off from what coal can produce compared to solar and wind. The Great Bay wind project in Somerset County would generate 150 MW. Also, the offshore wind projects; Marwin wind project takes up 79,707 acres to erect 32 wind turbines for 248 megawatts of energy and the Skipjack wind project with 26,332 acres for 10 turbines and 120 megawatts of energy for a total of 518 megawatts of energy. A far cry from the 2647 MW at Chalk Point and Morgantown's 1,412 MW which also supplies energy to the District of Columbia. More facts on MD energy as stated on the energy information agency website.

[Maryland - State Energy Profile Analysis - U.S. Energy ... - EIA](https://www.eia.gov/state/analysis/sid=MD)

[www.eia.gov › state › analysis › sid=MD](https://www.eia.gov/state/analysis/sid=MD)

Value on Display... Everyday.





Without nuclear energy as a tier one renewable and the reuse of spent rods for fuel MD will not meet it's energy needs with wind and solar alone

We ask for an unfavorable report by the committee.

Electrical Workers

Insulators

Boilermakers

United Association

Roofers

Cement Masons

Teamsters

Laborers

Bricklayers

Ironworkers

Sheet Metal Workers

Elevator Constructors

Painters

Operating Engineers

Carpenters

Sincerely,
Jeffry Guido

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

5829 Allentown Rd Camp Spring MD 20746

Value on Display... Everyday.



Testimony SB-148 Coal Plant Elimination FIN 2021.p

Uploaded by: Kasecamp, Larry

Position: UNF

LARRY KASECAMP
Legislative Director

VACANT
Assistant Director

THOMAS CAHILL
Secretary



ANNAPOLIS OFFICE
176 Conduit St., Suite 206
Annapolis, MD 21401-2597

PH: 301-697-2695
utusldmd@gmail.com

January 29, 2021

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: SB148 OPPOSE

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 in its current form SB148**, "*Electric Generation – Transition From Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Plan and Fund (Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021)*."

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 recently 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 and the 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 **all** those working families who will be profoundly affected. This proposed legislation makes an insufficient attempt at providing remedies for a percentage of working families who will be profoundly impacted. If anyone "affected" happens to live in another jurisdiction, they are not covered by any provision of this legislation even though it effectively eliminates their job.

Our organization supports the efforts of legislators and the proponents to promote the cleanest environment we can reasonably have. We do not believe they are intentionally trying to cause financial hardship to any workers. We appreciate the items in this proposed legislation attempting to address a just transition, but don't believe they go near far enough on behalf of the many workers who will be either directly or indirectly affected. And we don't believe they are focused on the best ways to get there.

If the level of emission rate restrictions were set to an attainable level that's available today using modern technology and the industry chose not to comply, which resulted in their closure, that would be on the industry. But to force their closure through restriction at an unobtainable level places it on the legislature.

No labor representative is going to support legislation that outright eliminates the jobs of the members they represent. If their members lose their jobs due to a financial decision of their employer, then that's on their employer.

As a labor representative who has been involved in collective bargaining, I know you don't take a proposed agreement to your members for a vote without the cost and benefits defined. It's called putting the cart before the horse. This proposed legislation fits that description in that it establishes a committee to evaluate the effects on workers and make a recommended solution after the fact they lost their jobs. The establishment of a committee to work out the details so the cost and benefits are known should be included in the legislation when offered for consideration.

For these reasons, we urge an unfavorable report of SB148.

Sincerely



Lawrence E. Kasecamp
MD State Legislative Director
 Transportation Division

SB148_MDE_LOI.pdf

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 2, 2021

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

Re: SB148- Electric Generation – Transition From Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Plan and Fund (Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021)

Dear Chair Kelley and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or the Department) has reviewed SB 148- *Electric Generation – Transition From Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Plan and Fund (Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021)*. The bill has two main components, establishing a maximum emission rate of 180 pounds per million British Thermal Units (lbs/MMBtu) for carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from electrical generating units (EGUs) and establishing a Fossil Fuel Community Transition Fund. The Department would like to provide some information related to this bill.

CO₂ Emission Reductions

SB 148 establishes a maximum emission rate of 180 lbs/MMBtu 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 June 1, 2021 and March 1, 2030 depending on the affected unit. It is unlikely that the EGUs noted in the bill could meet the 180 lbs/MMBtu rate without CO₂ controls. The dates listed for the EGUs to achieve the 180 lbs/MMBtu rate are generally in sync with the current announced retirement date for those EGUs, except for Morgantown Units 1 and 2. The bill would require Morgantown Units 1 and 2 to meet the 180 lbs/MMBtu rate by October 1, 2024; however, Morgantown has announced a retirement date of 2027.

Fossil Fuel Community Transition Fund

The bill amends State Government Article § 9-20B-05 to require \$13.3 million be transferred from SEIF, which receives proceeds primarily from the sale of CO₂ allowances under the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), as well as other sources, to the Fossil Fuel Community Transition Fund during fiscal years 2022 through 2024.

MDE agrees that it is important to support displaced workers who are transitioning from employment with an affected EGU. The requirements under this bill to have EGUs meet the CO₂ emission standard by a date certain reflects, for most plants, what has already been decided; however, SB 148 requires the State to fund the full

transition-related needs associated with those closures without consideration of any efforts on behalf of the companies to meet those same needs. Funding this transition will have a large financial impact on the State.

While SB 148 would allocate \$13.3 million from SEIF, which is primarily funded by RGGI, it would not alter the formula dictating how those RGGI proceeds are expended. Since that formula would remain unchanged, it is not immediately clear which programs currently funded by the SEIF would be impacted by the diversion of SEIF funds to this purpose. But \$13.3 million is a substantial fraction of annual RGGI proceeds, so the impact on affected programs during Fiscal Years 2022 through 2024 would be significant.

The SEIF formula in question allocates 20% of proceeds from RGGI to the renewable and clean energy programs account. This includes funding for MDE's Climate Change Program, which administers greenhouse gas regulatory programs like RGGI (the source of the funding), develops Maryland's long term climate plans under the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act, and provides administrative and technical support for the Maryland Commission on Climate Change. Any reduction in available SEIF funds could limit funding available to MDE to perform its climate planning tasks, which continue to grow in importance and complexity with additional legislative requirements.

In addition to the potential SEIF impacts, as EGUs shut down, there will be a significant reduction in emission-based fee revenues. These sources collectively provide MDE several hundred thousand dollars in emission-based fee revenues yearly. The loss of this revenue, coupled with any potential reduction in SEIF revenues, magnifies the revenue loss to MDE.

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor SB 148- *Electric Generation – Transition From Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Plan and Fund (Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021)*. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tyler Abbott", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tyler Abbott

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

SB00148 (HB0066)- LOI.pdf

Uploaded by: Fahrig, Landon

Position: INFO



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

TO: Members, Senate Finance Committee
FROM: Mary Beth Tung – Director, MEA
SUBJECT: SB0148 – Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021
DATE: February 2, 2021

MEA POSITION: Letter of Concern

Senate Bill 148 would have significant fiscal impacts on MEA, likely leading to the diminution, consolidation, or elimination of existing MEA programs that are targeted, efficient, and effective. The proposed legislation will divert dwindling Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF) resources from critical energy programs, like those targeted to benefit for low-to-moderate income (LMI) Marylanders and renewable and clean energy technologies to a new nonlapsing fund with duplicative purposes.

The Maryland Energy Administration (“MEA”) supports the transition from dirtier fossil energy commodities to cleaner sources of electrical generation, as evidenced by its bevy of programs. However, this proposed legislation would divert \$39,900,000 from the SEIF in the course of three fiscal years. Over the past several years, the General Assembly has approved mandated transfers from the SEIF for programs or initiatives outside of MEA. To put the impacts of these mandates in perspective, this year’s budget analysis notes that MEA has a total FY22 allowance of nearly \$68 million, but MEA programs have an allocation of only \$16.4 million. Removing an additional \$13.3 million annually from MEA will have significant and far reaching impacts on MEA programming.

The purpose of the considerable transfer from SEIF within the bill is to create a Fossil Fuel Community Transition Fund (Fund) within Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). 30% of the Fund is to be used for “clean energy or energy efficiency projects”. This is already the purpose of SEIF and the programs administered by MEA. This portion of the fund would only create inefficiencies by creating duplicative programs at MDE while reducing the efficacy of similar programs within MEA.

The remainder of funds under the bill would be used to supplement property tax revenue in certain counties and to fund jobs-training and apprenticeship programs. Under the Clean Energy Jobs Act of 2019, SEIF *already* funds such jobs preparedness programs within the Department of Labor. It is also worthy of mention that neither tax supplementation nor the redundant funding of existing jobs-training programs result in any reduction of greenhouse gas emissions whatsoever.

Despite the significant impacts that MEA would be subjected to under this bill (in the form of loss of programs or significantly diminished programmatic scope and efficacy), MEA would not sit on the Council that develops the plans for the Fund. Additionally, MEA was not consulted as a stakeholder prior to the introduction of the bill; though it is significantly affected by the scope and magnitude of the bill.

MEA urges the Committee to take this information under advisement when rendering its decision on how to report on Senate Bill 148.

SB 148_Information_Stanek.pdf

Uploaded by: Stanek, Jason

Position: INFO

JASON M. STANEK
CHAIRMAN

MICHAEL T. RICHARD
ANTHONY J. O'DONNELL
ODOGWU OBI LINTON
MINDY L. HERMAN



PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

February 2, 2021

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

**RE: SB 148 – INFORMATION – Electric Generation - Transition From Fossil Fuels -
(Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021)**

Dear Chair Kelley and Committee Members:

I have reviewed Senate Bill 148 and provide the information below for the Committee's consideration. SB 148 requires reduced emissions from Maryland's coal plants and provides funding from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund to address economic consequences of transitioning from reliance on these facilities.

If Maryland's coal plants cease current operations -- the Commission, in its role as the regulator of reliable electricity in the state -- would actively monitor this transition, especially effects on electricity transmission and reliance on alternate energy resources. The prescribed dates for discontinued operations in SB 148 would provide the energy stakeholder community with time to institute plans to replace necessary energy capacity. PJM Interconnection, LLC, the regional transmission operator serving Maryland would have time to plan for enhancements of the regional grid to ensure Marylanders have continued access to reliable electricity. PJM's power markets would also provide investment signals for new resources, including those that could meet Maryland's renewable energy requirements.

Monitoring Analytics, PJM's independent market monitor, reports that regional energy prices have dropped in recent years;¹ natural gas has substantially displaced coal in PJM's markets.² No new coal plants are being planned, and many existing coal facilities participating in PJM's competitive markets are opting to retire. In Maryland, GenOn attributes its decision to retire its Morgantown facility to this legislation and acknowledges that it ceased coal-fired operations at its Chalk Point facilities.³ Similarly, Talen Energy announced plans to cease coal-

¹ 2020 Quarterly State of the Market Report for PJM: January through September, at 153.

² *Id.*, at 173-178.

³ *GenOn Holdings, Inc. Announces Retirement of Morgantown Coal Units* (GenOn Press Release, December 18, 2020) <https://www.genon.com/genon-news/genon-holdings-inc-announces-retirement-of-morgantown-coal-units>
WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER TOWER • 6 ST. PAUL STREET • BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202-6806

fired operations at its Brandon Shores and Wagner plants.⁴ While no announcements have been made regarding the Warrior Run facility, it operates under a long-term payment agreement pursuant to the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act through 2030.

Finally, I note that SB 148 does not define “permanent retirement.” As such, a generating unit could “retire” its coal-fired operations but replace the unit with another high emitting fuel, such as oil. The bill also allows for new generating facilities reliant upon fuel sources with considerably higher greenhouse gas emissions than natural gas.⁵ The emissions threshold prescribed in the bill could allow for continued operation of coal-fired facilities in certain instances, such as co-firing with sustainably grown biomass.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide informational testimony regarding SB 148. Please contact my Director of Legislative Affairs, Lisa Smith, at 410-336-6288 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Jason M. Stanek
Chairman

⁴ *Talen Energy Announces Transformational Move Towards a Sustainable, ESG-Focused Future* (Talen Press Release, November 10, 2020) <https://talenenergy.investorroom.com/2020-11-10-Talen-Energy-Announces-Transformational-Move-Toward-a-Sustainable-ESG-Focused-Future>

⁵ U.S. Energy Information Administration *Frequently Asked Questions*
<https://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.php?id=73&t=11>