

MID-ATLANTIC PIPE TRADES ASSOCIATION



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Maryland House of Delegate – Appropriations Committee

TO: Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Chair; Delegate Mark Chang, Vice-Chair; and members of the House Ways and Means Committee
FROM: Jason Ascher, Political Director – Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

Oppose HB 806 - Building Standards and Emissions Reductions - High Performance, State, and Local Government Buildings, State Operations, and Eligible Projects

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association, our member Local, and our almost 10,000 United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters members across the state, I ask you to **OPPOSE HB 806**.

Calculating the Global warming potential of construction material is a pointless act. The only way to make steel, which most residential and commercial building construction uses, is by burning coal, a fossil fuel. Furthermore, the wholesale elimination of fossil fuels from the building code will affect the public's ability to get affordable and reliable electricity. This is because the infrastructure for renewable energy sources such as wind and solar does not exist yet to eliminate fossil fuels.

One of the countries leading the way on wind power development is Denmark. They are considered a world leader in wind power and have only reached 50% after over 40-years of building windmills. If we build at the same rate, we will get 50% of our energy from renewables by 2070. Eliminating fossil fuels will not make that construction process go faster. It only means Maryland will be importing energy from neighboring states burning fossil fuels. We need to be looking at real solutions such as increasing nuclear power and using carbon capture on existing fossil fuel facilities.

Please **OPPOSE HB 806**.

Sincerely,

Jason Ascher
Political Director
Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

Plumbers and Gasfitter Local 5 – Camp Springs, MD
Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 10 – Richmond, VA/Roanoke, VA
Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 110 – Norfolk, VA
Road Sprinkler Fitters Local 669 – Columbia, MD

Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486 – Baltimore, MD
Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 489 – Cumberland, MD
Steamfitters Local 602 – Capitol Heights, MD