



Maryland House of Delegate – Appropriation

TO: Chairwoman Maggie McIntosh, Vice-Chair Mark Chang, and Members of the Committee

FROM: Jason Ascher, Political Director – Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association, United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters

Support HB 365 – Public School Construction – Fossil Fuel-Based Energy System Costs – Prohibition (Green School Construction Act of 2022)

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association and our over 10,000 members and their families from five United Association Locals across Maryland, I ask that you **OPPOSE HB 365**.

The United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters and its members strongly oppose this legislation and view it as an attack on our members and livelihood. A large quantity of the work a pipefitter performs is in building and maintaining fossil fuel-based energy systems. These systems are constructed and serviced by pipefitters, from power plants to the systems in apartment buildings, office buildings, and schools. These systems help keep the lights on and the students warm during a cold winter when the sun isn't shining. Unfortunately, this legislation does not plan for a system to replace the fossil fuel-based systems, just to eliminate it if the school wants state funding.

With the large sums of money from the Built to Learn Act of 2020 about to be appropriated in this committee for school construction, there are a few things we hope you will consider and oppose this legislation. First is the job loss. Removing fossil fuels from school construction will cost hard-working men and women good-paying, family-sustaining jobs. The second is how you will heat the school. What systems can replace fossil fuels to heat the school as efficiently year-round as fossil fuels? Finally, what is the burden put on the local governments when they smartly decide to use fossil fuels to heat their new schools?

Until more of the infrastructure is built to expand renewable energy sources such as nuclear, all types of solar, wind, geothermal, and Hydro, it will remain better for the taxpayers and our children for schools to use fossil fuel-based energy systems. For these reasons, I ask you to **OPPOSE HB 365**

Sincerely,

Jason Ascher
Political Director
Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

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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