



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 569 Energy Generation, Transmission, and Storage Projects – Required Community Benefit Agreement and Labor Standards February 24, 2022

To: Hon. C.T. Wilson, Chair, Brian Crosby, Vice Chair, and members of the House Economic Matters Committee

From: Tom Clark, Political Director, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26

Mr. Chair and members of the Economic Matters Committee, I respectfully ask that you vote **favorably on HB 569**. This “forward thinking” piece of legislation that addresses the needs of the renewable energy industry as well as the Maryland worker. It focuses on opportunities for local, minority, woman owned and veteran owned businesses.

Over the last three years, Annapolis has been flooded with bills containing in their titles, the words “just transition”. A phrase more often used as a sales slogan or pitch to the working people of the state, yet does not address wages at the market rate or the local hiring of minority contractors that employ minority workers. HB 569 is a “just transition” bill that sets certain labor standards at the dawn of this industry. There is no reason for the State or it’s sons and daughters to start at rock bottom regarding workers’ rights, safety issues or pay rates in this tremendously lucrative and environmentally responsible industry of the future. A favorably vote on this legislation will ensure that your constituents will receive the market rate for their services and the only ask for developers and contractors is to act responsible. History shows that without responsible bidder policy, contractors and developers will hire non-Maryland residents, misclassify workers and literally steal the wages from their employees. Under these unsavory business models, the men and women employed on these projects will be a financial burden to the state, unable to afford basic healthcare and need food assistance. With the passage and enforcement of HB 569, your very own constituents will thrive as citizens, while being trained in family sustaining careers, and spend their earned wages right here in the Freestate. This bill is in step with the General Assembly’s goal to create quality infrastructure jobs. As a representative of some 11,700 IBEW members, I ask that you work towards that goal and support the Maryland workforce.

Please join with me and the Maryland workers of the future as we begin the just transition into renewable energy sources. I encourage you to vote **for HB 569**. Thank you

