



Maryland House of Delegates Economic Matters Committee

Chair: CT Wilson

Vice Chair: Brian M. Crosby

House Bill 569 Energy Generation, Transmission, and Storage Projects – Required Community Benefit Agreement and Labor Standards

Position: **SUPPORT**

The Baltimore DC Metro Building Trades Council supports House Bill 569. The solar and wind energy industry does not currently provide family sustaining wages and benefits comparable to employment in the nuclear, natural gas, fuel oil or coal industry. As Maryland is intent on moving away from the use of fossil fuels and increasing its reliance on renewable energy it is imperative to set the labor standards and conditions for the installation and expansion of these utilities. All of the Building Trades apprenticeship training centers teach green installation and construction. Our members provide readily trained certified and licensed skilled crafts persons that will install these systems safely and economically. These standards include paying the area prevailing wage standard for each trade, including the wages and fringe benefits per trade, and be subject to all state reporting and compliance requirements. Participation in an apprenticeship program registered with the State of Maryland for each trade employed on the project. Contractors that have been compliant with federal and state wage and hour laws in the previous three years. The establishment and execution of a plan for outreach, recruitment, and retention of Maryland residents to perform work on the project—including residents who are returning citizens, women, minority individuals, and veterans—with an aspirational goal of 25 percent of total work hours performed by Maryland residents, including individuals in one or more of the groups identified. The application and protection of these standards will protect Maryland's working men and women.

We ask the committee for a favorable vote. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey Guido - Baltimore-DC Metro Building Trades Council

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