



Plumbers Local Union No. 5

United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada, AFL-CIO

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Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Feb. 15, 2022

To: Senator Pinsky, Chair; Senator Kagan, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee.

From: Michael Canales, Plumbers and Gasfitters Local #5 Member and Business Representative

OPPOSE SB 528 – Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022

On behalf of the Plumbers and Gasfitters Local #5 and our over 1,800 members plus their families across all corners of Maryland, I ask you to **OPPOSE SB 528**.

As an organization whose members build and service Natural Gas infrastructure, this legislation will negatively impact the careers of many of our members. Our members have been earning good family-sustaining wages with benefits since our inception in 1890. We have been working hard, paying our taxes, and taking care of our families without the need for public assistance programs. Our work has ensured that taxpayers across Maryland can turn lights on in their homes, have hot water, and have heat in the cold winters. Our members come from diverse backgrounds, such as immigrants from around the world, returning citizens, and some whose membership is a family tradition. Many of these workers will tell you these careers have changed their life, mine included. Now, this legislation threatens their careers and the livelihood of their families. Our members train for five years to be the most skilled Plumbers and Gasfitters in the industry, their training was at no cost to them or the taxpayers, through our self-funded apprenticeship and training programs and they earn wages and benefits that reflect that training.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Canales
Business Agent / Organizer
Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 5