



# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 525 Public Utilities Energy Distribution Planning and Required Labor Standards February 15, 2022

TO: Hon. Delores G. Kelley, Chair, Mr. Brian J. Feldman, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Finance Committee  
FROM: Tom Clark, Political Director, IBEW Local 26

Madam Chair and members of the Finance Committee, I ask that you **support SB 525**, a bill written and designed to help the Public Utilities as well as the citizens of Maryland. It's a win, win for all.

SB 525 is not necessarily geared towards public utilities as much as it is geared towards the working families in Maryland. It provides the working class in Maryland a "seat at the table" as well as wages and working conditions that you seek for your constituents. Working families of the state would like to be heard in a Workgroup, not just today but twenty and thirty years from now. The word "Public" in Public Utilities includes the rate payers of Maryland, the men and women that pay the bills, consume the energy and seek fair labor standards for their neighbors. As we transition to cleaner energy, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers are leading the way, just as the General Assembly expects of us. A bill designed to encourage collective bargaining, prevailing wages, and local hiring is what we expect from the General Assembly. These Labor standards are what the citizens of the Freestate seek for themselves and their children. Because of the pandemic and stagnant wages in previous years, there is now a skilled labor shortage. 2022 is the "Year of the Worker", or the 2020's could be the "Decade of the Worker". Wages, benefits, quality of life and their voices, will increase and hopefully Maryland can lead the way.

You will notice throughout this legislative session; Labor standards will be attached to quite a few bills. This focus is because that's what our membership wants, that what the workers want, that's what Marylanders want. Please join working families and give them a seat at the table and a voice. Please join the "Year of the Worker" and **vote favorably on SB 525**. Thank you

