



Senate Finance Committee

To: Senator Delores Kelley, Chair; Senator Brian Feldman Vice-Chair; and Members of the Committee.
From: Jason Ascher, Political Director, Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association.

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association and our 10,000+ United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitter members across Maryland, I ask you to **SUPPORT HB SB 418**.

The United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters believes in an “all of the above” approach to energy production. Our members build and maintain infrastructure for fossil fuels, nuclear, and other less-used or developing renewable energy sources such as Geothermal, Hydrogen, and Concentrated Solar. We want to see renewable energy infrastructure constructed, including more nuclear, while keeping natural gas and carbon capture in use to protect the grid from failing. Unfortunately, with the rush to build new infrastructure for renewable energy, the workers tend to be the ones left behind. **SB 418** will ensure that the workers are looked out for on these projects and that the workers on these projects are the highest skilled and best trained available.

Fossil Fuel infrastructure is commonly (but not always) built and maintained by union workers. These workers earn family-sustaining wages, with benefits such as health insurance, pensions, and retirement saving. Under union contracts, workers also get other worksite protection such as a safer worksite, apprentice training, and a set schedule. The renewable sector, aside from Nuclear, which operates more like the fossil fuel sector when it comes to workers, tends to do things as cheap as possible, starting with labor. These renewable energy companies would rather use cheaper labor that they can exploit than highly skilled and highly trained local workers. **SB 418** will require all energy generation, transmission, and storage projects to have labor standards and a community benefits agreement. It will be a requirement for Prevailing Wages, licensed workers, and workers trained in registered apprenticeship programs. This bill is how we ensure that all energy projects protect both the community and workers. These workers will be able to take care of themselves and their families, be set up for a successful career, and allow them to retire with dignity.

For these reasons, I ask that you support **SB 418**.

Sincerely,

Jason Ascher
Political Director
Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association