



## Maryland Senate Finance Committee

**Chair: Delores G. Kelley**

**Vice Chair: Brian J. Feldman**

### **Senate Bill 525 Public Utilities – Energy Distribution Planning and Required Labor Standards**

#### **Position: Support**

The Baltimore DC Metro Building Trades Council supports SB 525. The establishment of labor Labor standards on renewable energy and the upgrading of the power grid is crucial for Maryland's energy future. Maryland has four major utility suppliers, BG & E, PEPCO, Potomac Edison and Delmarva Power. Currently hydroelectric, solar, wind and biomass account for about 11% of renewable energy with another 75% being imported into MD. A 2018 Abel Foundation report showed that 97% of end users with 3<sup>rd</sup> party suppliers pay more than the standard service offer of the big four. As Maryland moves forward with improvements to the distribution grid, it is imperative that this work is done with contractors and subcontractors who will:

1. Pay 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.
2. Participate in an apprenticeship program registered with the State of Maryland for each trade employed on the project.
3. Have been compliant with federal and state wage and hour laws in the previous three years.
4. Establish and execute 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.

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Electrical Workers  
Insulators  
Boilermakers  
United Association  
Plumbers & Gas Fitters  
Sprinkler Fitters  
Steam Fitters  
Roofers  
Cement Masons  
Teamsters  
Laborers  
Bricklayers  
Ironworkers  
Sheet Metal Workers  
Elevator Constructors  
Painters  
Operating Engineers  
Carpenters

5. Offer health care and retirement benefits to the employees working on the project.
  6. Maintain appropriate license requirements and are in good standing to perform the work.
- c. Exempts the prevailing wage requirement if construction of the renewable energy project is covered by a project labor agreement.

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

Respectfully,

Jeffry Guido

Baltimore-DC Metro Building Trades Council

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