



P.O. Box 278  
Riverdale, MD 20738

**Committee: Economic Matters**

**Testimony on: HB513 “Investor-Owned Utilities – Prevailing Wage – Enforcement”**

**Position: Support**

**Hearing Date: February 16, 2023**

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club urges a favorable report on HB513.

This bill will require that the Public Service Commission (PSC) enforce the state law requirement that contractors and subcontractors of investor-owned utilities pay their employees the prevailing wage rate (as determined by the Maryland Commissioner of Labor and Industry) for work on gas and electric infrastructure projects.

The Sierra Club is committed to the principles of equity, justice, and inclusion, and we strive to put these principles at the center of environmental initiatives. These principles include respecting and supporting the rights of workers, and their ability to have good jobs, earn a decent living, and enjoy occupational health and safety protections.

We are proud to stand in solidarity with labor to advocate for the payment of the prevailing wage on energy projects in Maryland. Plainly, for prevailing wage requirements to be meaningful, they must be accompanied by authority granted to a government agency to enforce these requirements when necessary. Given the PSC’s role in regulating Maryland utilities, we believe that the agency is well placed to take on this enforcement responsibility.

As Maryland’s energy economy transforms, it is critical that the jobs created provide good family wages with benefits, and that job training be provided for local residents, women, and minorities. This bill will help advance these goals. We urge a favorable report.

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