



Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

To: Senator Brian Feldman, Chair; Senator Brian Feldman; Senator Cheryl Kagan, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee.

From: Jason Ascher, Political Director, Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association.

OPPOSE – SB 689 – Public Utilities – Energy Efficiency and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions – Alterations and Requirements (Energy Savings Act)

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 **OPPOSE SB 689**.

The transition from fossil fuels to renewable sources will not happen just because you think it should. Significant investment in renewable energy infrastructure is needed before this transition begins. In Denmark, they get approximately 50% of their energy from wind and solar (the only renewable most Maryland activists will consider), and they started building this infrastructure in the 1970s. A mandate like this legislation will only increase electricity demand, increasing demand for fossil fuel generation. We must consider an “all of the above” energy approach to make this transition work. Our energy generation sources must include gas, carbon capture, hydro, nuclear, geothermal, hydrogen, wind, and solar. Next, you need to build the infrastructure for renewables, including wind, geothermal, solar, nuclear, and hydro, while using carbon capture to decrease the harmful emissions from natural gas facilities. Stopping energy generation from everything but wind and solar will only succeed in making Maryland a net energy importer. This energy will come from states such as West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio which will continue to burn fossil fuels.

The other side of this transition is the loss of good-paying jobs, which this bill needs to do more to help. Renewable energy developers want to make as much profit as possible, which means they want to get their supplies from overseas and pay their labor as little as is legally possible. This legislation does nothing to help workers. There are no labor protections included. There is also the problem of cost to the consumer. Upgrading your home from gas to all-electric can cost more than \$25,000. While this might be fine for someone in the upper middle class or wealthy, this could be devastating financially for someone working class or poor.

For all the reasons listed above, I ask that you **OPPOSE SB 689**.

Sincerely,

Jason Ascher
Political Director
Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association
7050 Oakland Mills Road, Suite 180
Columbia, MD 21046

MID-ATLANTIC PIPE TRADES ASSOCIATION



PLUMBERS - STEAMFITTERS - SPRINKLER FITTERS
PIPE FITTERS - PIPE WELDERS - HVAC SERVICE TECH

**7050 Oakland Mills Road
Suite 180
Columbia, MD 21046**

**Phone: 410-290-3890
www.midatlanticpipetrades.o**

Plumbers and Gasfitter Local 5 – Camp Springs, MD
Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 10 – Richmond, VA/Roanoke, VA
Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 110 – Norfolk, VA
Road Sprinkler Fitters Local 669 – Columbia, MD

Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486 – Baltimore, MD
Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 489 – Cumberland, MD
Steamfitters Local 602 – Capitol Heights, MD