

February 9, 2023

The Honorable Melony Griffith, Chair
The Honorable Katherine Klausmeier, Vice Chair
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

SB 170 – Energy Generation Projects – Required Labor Standards
Testimony of Jami Kirila
Position – Favorable

Thank you Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and members of the Committee for the opportunity to testify on SB 170.

My name is Jami Kirila. I am the owner of Kirila Earthworks, a WBE and MBE small business contractor based out of Prince George's County, Maryland. We specialize in stormwater, utilities, and site development services for commercial, industrial, environmental, and residential projects throughout Maryland. We are proud to be a small company that helps create middle-class construction jobs for Maryland residents.

My company was in the first cohort of Prince George's Clean Water Partnership mentor/protégé program. We started with just two employees and today employ 8-10 construction workers. To-date, we have performed more than \$10 million worth of stormwater infrastructure work throughout the county.

As a small, Maryland-based construction contractor, I can tell you firsthand that requiring labor standards, especially prevailing wage, on energy generation projects will help my company compete and win work. That's because prevailing wage requirements level the playing field for reputable, high-road contractors like Kirila Earthworks. Prevailing wage prevents low-road contractors from undercutting high-road contractors committed to paying decent wages and benefits.

My company is a great example of how prevailing wage builds value into infrastructure investment. Prevailing wage promotes the success of local contractors and creates jobs for local residents – both of which help build Maryland's economy. Kirila Earthworks would love to grow our business in Maryland even more, and provide even more residents with quality, good-paying jobs. The passage of SB 170 will help us make that happen.

We are proud to be a small company that supports SB 170.

Please issue a favorable report on this bill.