

February 8, 2023



SB 170 – Favorable with Amendment

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

The American Clean Power Association (ACP) is uniting the power of wind, solar, transmission and storage companies and their allied industries, to champion policies that enable the growth of renewable energy in the United States.

Recently passed legislation at the federal level – the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) – has put America on a path to reducing economy-wide emissions 40 percent below 2005 levels by 2030 while creating 550,000 new clean energy jobs. The IRA is a critical part of creating America’s clean energy future and keeps the U.S. within reach of President Biden’s climate goals.

The once-in-a-generation opportunity to build out America’s clean energy resources enabled by the IRA is also an investment in US workers. To access incentives like tax credits, project developers are required to pay prevailing wage, utilize apprenticeship programs, and more. Senate Bill 170 would bring Maryland in line with the recently passed federal legislation and further strengthens these requirements.

ACP supports this legislation with amendment. The amendment is important because it clarifies that for a small subset of projects which have already received a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and are either under construction or in advanced development that those projects can proceed with construction and completion.

Reports show that the clean power industry will support a direct workforce of nearly 1 million Americans by 2030. These jobs will provide nearly \$300 billion in wages and benefits to hard-working Americans. In addition, once complete, these projects will support 125,000 permanent jobs in the operations and maintenance phase, providing nearly \$9 billion in wages and benefits each year.

These careers are some of the fastest growing occupations in the country – wind technicians are the country’s #1 fastest growing role, and solar installers are #3. Clean energy workers make 30% more than the national median wage, ensuring that they have access to good paying jobs that support them and their families. The clean energy workforce is already highly unionized, with union coverage rates just above 10% compared to the average national private-sector union coverage rate of 7.2%. America’s clean energy companies are proud of the good-paying, fast growing, and pro-labor careers that our sector has already built, and we are proud to support policies that will broaden these careers to many more workers.¹

The American Clean Power Association requests a Favorable with Amendment report on SB 170.

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¹ The jobs numbers in this testimony are from a [report](#) prepared by BW Research using the NREL JEDI models for offshore and onshore wind, and an IMPLAN-by-parts analysis mapped against NREL research papers for solar and energy storage. The study also incorporated data from the 2020 U.S. Energy and Employment Report.