



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AFL-CIO

7 School Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2096

Balto. (410) 269-1940 • Fax (410) 280-2956

President

Donna S. Edwards

Secretary-Treasurer

Gerald W. Jackson

**HB 820 - Nuclear Energy Development Task Force
House Economic Matters Committee
February 29, 2024**

SUPPORT

**Donna S. Edwards
President**

Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 820. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 300,000 union members in the state of Maryland, I offer the following comments.

The state must explore opportunities to remove barriers to future nuclear energy development. Nuclear energy currently provides 37% of all electricity that is generated in the state. It is our largest source of carbon free energy. If we hope to meet our state's ambitious greenhouse gas reduction goals, nuclear must be a part of the equation. Nuclear also plays a unique role in the future of our renewable grid. Nuclear energy can provide consistent, 24/7, around the clock, predictable, base load energy that is not subject to weather conditions like wind or solar energy.

HB 820 creates a task force responsible for identifying barriers to the expansion of nuclear power generation in Maryland and issuing recommendations to the General Assembly by December 31, 2025. The task force is required to study different scales of nuclear energy including community scale and utility scale projects. The task force includes diverse representation, including two seats for labor representatives. HB 820 requires the task force to consider incentives and actions to ensure that the state meets its clean energy goals while creating high quality jobs with family-sustaining wages and meeting minority business enterprise participation goals.

We urge a favorable report on HB 820.