

LORIG CHARKOUDIAN
Legislative District 20
Montgomery County

Economic Matters Committee

Subcommittees

Public Utilities

Chair, Unemployment Insurance



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 554- PUBLIC UTILITIES- INVESTOR-OWNED UTILITIES- PREVAILING WAGE

TESTIMONY OF DELEGATE LORIG CHARKOUDIAN

FEBRUARY 8, 2024

Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

The Distribution System is the part of the energy grid that Maryland, through the Public Service Commission (PSC), regulates. How the Distribution Grid is planned and maintained will not only determine how reliable and resilient our energy system is but also whether we can reach our clean energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals. With the passage of the Climate Solutions Now Act in 2022, we have plans for historic investments in our distribution grid to meet our climate goals.

Electric lineworkers will be implementing these crucial improvements to the grid, and this bill will ensure that as we make the necessary investment in our grid, we are also building a strong middle class.

Currently, Maryland law requires that all work done on underground utilities (gas and electric) is done with contractors paying prevailing wages. This bill will establish parity so that work done on all utilities- above ground and underground- will be done by contractors paying prevailing wages.

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 554.