



Electrical Workers

Insulators

Boilermakers

United Association

Plumbers & Gas Fitters

Sprinkler Fitters

Steam Fitters

Roofers

Cement Masons

Teamsters

Laborers

Bricklayers

Ironworkers

Sheet Metal Workers

Elevator Constructors

Painters

Operating Engineers

Carpenters

February 29, 2024

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair  
The Honorable Cheryl Kagan, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment  
Miller Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**SB 570: Public Utilities - Thermal Energy Network Systems - Authorization and Establishment (Working for Accessible Renewable Maryland Thermal Heat (WARMTH) Act Position - Support**

Thank you Chair Feldman and Vice Chair Kagan and members of the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of SB 570.

The BDCBT represents 28 construction trade unions across Maryland, Northern Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Combined, our trade unions represent more than 30,000 thousand skilled craft professionals in the construction industry.

The BDCBT supports SB 570. SB 570 establishes a pilot for networked geothermal systems in Maryland. Networked geothermal systems are a proven technology that Maryland can use to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Networked geothermal systems are an efficient, inflation resistant, reliable way to heat and cool buildings. They also minimize additional electric demand on the grid.

One of the key features of SB 570 that the BDCBT supports are its labor standards. Specifically, SB 570 prioritizes the payment of prevailing wages on pilot projects and maintaining employment for those who work on gas infrastructure.

Maryland has a statutory requirement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 60% of 2006 levels by 2031. Once this milestone is achieved, the state must transition to a net-zero economy by 2045. Meeting these targets is urgent and imperative. The transition to a carbon-free economy provides benefits to public health and opportunities to invest in Maryland's overburdened and underserved communities. Networked geothermal systems should be part of the solution.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 570.

Greg Akerman  
President

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