

Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

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Economic Matters Committee

To: Delegate C.T. Wilson, Chair; Delegate Brian Crosby, Vice-Chair; and Members of the Committee.
From: Jason Ascher, Political Director, Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association.

SUPPORT HB 1217 – Natural Gas Generating Facilities - Authorization

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association and our five United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters Locals, which represent 10,000+ Plumbers, Steamfitters, Welders, HVAC Techs, and Sprinkler Fitters across Maryland, I ask you to **SUPPORT HB 1217**.

We hear it repeatedly: "Maryland only makes 40% of its energy." Yet, we see a push to close power plants based on overly strict renewable energy standards. Coal and Gas Plants across Maryland are closed, and the workers who build and maintain them must find a different path to the middle class. At the United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters, we believe in an all-of-the-above approach to energy generation. We are not against wind and solar energy development, but we do not think we are far enough along in there development to shut down natural gas and coal generation plants. Our primary care is good union jobs and the grid's reliability, both of which come from the development of *Natural* gas generation facilities.

Natural gas-generating facilities create good-paying union jobs like the ones our members hold. When Cove Point was built in Calvert County, almost 4000 union Steamfitters, primarily welders and pipefitters, worked tirelessly to complete the project. Adding new natural gas generation in Maryland will increase the grid's capacity and help create good union jobs, helping workers move into the middle class.

For the reasons listed above, we ask that you **SUPPORT HB 1217**.

Sincerely,

Jason Ascher
Political Director
Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

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