



TESTIMONY OF TOM BELLO, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, MECHANICAL
CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON
BEFORE THE HOUSE ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE AND THE EDUCATION,
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HB1217 / SB 950
FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT

Dear Chairs Wilson and Feldman and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Mechanical Contractors Association of Metropolitan Washington (MCAMW) to express support for House Bill 1217, provided an amendment is included to raise the threshold from 50% to 75% before phasing down natural gas generation.

Mechanical contractors are deeply involved in Maryland's energy infrastructure, from power facilities to essential mechanical systems across industries. While we fully support clean energy expansion, the current threshold of 50% does not align with Maryland's actual energy composition.

With nuclear providing 40% and renewables adding just 4%, we are already nearing 50% but lack the necessary grid enhancements and energy storage solutions to reliably reduce natural gas reliance. Raising the threshold to 75% will ensure energy resilience, prevent over-dependence on imported electricity, and allow for workforce adaptation and retraining.

We urge this committee to approve HB 1217 with this essential amendment to facilitate a balanced and practical energy transition.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership on this matter.

Sincerely,

Tom Bello
Executive Vice President
Mechanical Contractors Association of Metropolitan Washington