



PLUMBERS LOCAL UNION NO. 5

UNITED ASSOCIATION OF JOURNEYMEN AND APPRENTICES OF THE PLUMBING AND PIPE FITTING INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, AFL-CIO

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TESTIMONY OF TERRIEA "T" SMALLS, BUSINESS MANAGER / FINANCIAL SECRETARY-TREASURER, UA PLUMBERS & GASFITTERS LOCAL 5

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 write to you today on behalf of Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 5 in strong support of House Bill 1217 / Senate Bill 950, with an essential amendment to raise the renewable energy threshold from 50% to 75% before restricting natural gas generation in Maryland.

Our members are the professionals who ensure safe and efficient gas distribution systems, and we understand the importance of balanced energy policy. While we support the move toward clean energy, prematurely phasing out natural gas before renewables and nuclear reach a true majority share risks increased energy costs, grid instability, and potential job displacement for highly skilled union workers.

With nuclear currently supplying 40% of our energy, and renewables at just 4%, we are on the cusp of hitting 50%—but that does not mean we are ready to eliminate natural gas plants. Raising the threshold to 75% ensures Maryland has sufficient in-state generation capacity to meet demand without increasing dependency on out-of-state imports. It also gives the skilled union workforce time to adapt and transition within a stable, job-protected framework. I urge this committee to adopt the proposed amendment and move HB1217 / SB950 forward with a more realistic and responsible transition threshold.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Terriea "T" Smalls
Business Manager / Financial Secretary-Treasurer
Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 5

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