



## **PLUMBERS AND STEAMFITTERS**

### **UA LOCAL UNION 486**

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Founded 1889

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### **Economic Matters Committee**

To: Delegate C.T. Wilson, Chair; Delegate Brian Crosby, Vice-Chair; and Members of the Committee.

From: Christopher Anderson, Business Agent, Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486

### **SUPPORT HB 1217 – Natural Gas Generating Facilities - Authorization**

On behalf of the Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486, which represent 2,000+ Plumbers, Steamfitters, Welders, and HVAC Techs across Maryland, I ask you to SUPPORT HB 1217.

We often hear the claim that “Maryland only produces 40% of its energy.” Despite this, there is ongoing pressure to close power plants due to strict renewable energy standards. Coal and gas plants throughout Maryland are being shut down, leaving workers who build and maintain these plants seeking new opportunities to secure middle-class jobs. At the Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486, we support a comprehensive approach to energy generation. While we are not opposed to the development of wind and solar energy, we believe the technology is not yet advanced enough to phase out natural gas and coal plants entirely. Our main priority is to ensure good union jobs and a reliable grid, both of which are supported by natural gas generation facilities.

Natural gas plants provide well-paying union jobs, similar to those held by our members. For instance, when Cove Point was constructed in Calvert County, nearly 4,000 union steamfitters, mostly welders and pipefitters, worked diligently to complete the project. Expanding natural gas generation in Maryland will not only strengthen the grid but also create additional good union jobs, helping workers achieve middle-class status.

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

Sincerely,

Christopher Anderson