

Journeyman Pipe Fitters and Apprentices



Local Union No. 602

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AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO

TESTIMONY OF CHRIS MADELLO, BUSINESS MANAGER / FINANCIAL SECRETARY—
TREASURER, UA STEAMFITTERS LOCAL 602

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 Committees,

On behalf of the UA Steamfitters Local 602, representing thousands of skilled workers who maintain and construct the infrastructure that powers Maryland, I submit this letter in strong support of House Bill 1217 / Senate Bill 950, with a key amendment.

This bill is a significant step toward ensuring Maryland's energy security while balancing our transition to cleaner energy. However, the current 50% threshold for allowing the continued operation of natural gas plants is too low given our existing energy mix. Nuclear alone accounts for approximately 40% of in-state electricity generation, and wind and solar add another 4%. That places us already near the 50% mark, potentially triggering the ramp-down of natural gas prematurely, before we have sufficient reliable energy sources in place.

To avoid unnecessary job loss and grid instability, we urge an amendment to raise the threshold to 75%. This adjustment ensures that as we scale up renewables and nuclear, Marylanders still have reliable power without forcing undue reliance on imports from out-of-state generators. It also protects the skilled union workforce responsible for maintaining these facilities while allowing for a realistic and stable transition.

We appreciate the leadership of this committee and urge you to advance this bill with the proposed amendment to keep Maryland's energy infrastructure strong, reliable, and union-built.

Sincerely,

Chris Madello
Business Manager / Financial Secretary—Treasurer
UA Steamfitters Local 602

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