

The state of Maryland, like many other states, faces increased demand for electricity. To meet that demand, power and grow our state's economy, and address serious and growing threats from the effects of climate change, Marylanders need increased investment in all forms of electricity generation and storage that also reduce emissions.

Our focus is on developing and deploying existing and new clean energy technologies that reduce emissions in ways that preserve and grow high-quality union jobs, in the first instance with existing employers. Preserving existing nuclear plants while we bring new nuclear technologies to the market, continued use of natural gas and coal while abating emissions and leaks, and deploying carbon capture and storage where appropriate in the power sectors all support union jobs. Newer sectors, such as utility scale solar, residential solar, energy storage in different forms, and offshore wind can, do, and must support union jobs as well.

Unions and workers must be at the center of these investments. The growth of the clean energy economy cannot provide cover for employers that want to operate nonunion, and must provide the high-quality jobs that Marylanders want and deserve. Similarly, it cannot provide cover for the destruction of existing union jobs in fossil fuels.

SB316 is comprehensive. The nuclear RECs we believe are intended as a backstop in case the IRA nuclear tax credit gets cut. The multistate offshore wind transmission provisions are intended to provide a voluntary agreement for an offshore transmission line system in case PJM doesn't deliver on a transmission system for electricity from offshore wind projects. We support both initiatives.

We follow these Principles:

1. Energy policy must be based on solid scientific review that acknowledges that climate change is real, anthropogenic, and represents an existential threat to human society.
2. Successful social solutions to climate change must be based on an "all-of-the-above" energy source strategy that is regionally focused, flexible, preserves optionality, and addresses the crisis of stranded workers.
3. An essential priority of all climate policy solutions is the preservation of existing jobs, wherever possible, and the creation of new ones that are equal to or better than those that are displaced.
4. Climate policy represents an economic opportunity to the Maryland when the benefits of new technology deployment result in the creation of quality jobs and the creation of competitive domestic supply chains.

To provide further detail to the principles we follow, I am attaching Resolutions passed by the AFL-CIO <https://aflcio.org/resolutions/resolution5>, and the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO.

Thank you.