

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

AFFILIATED WITH:

CHOICE Building Trades Council — AFL-CIO
Baltimore Port Council
Baltimore Metro Council — AFL-CIO
Central MD Labor Council — AFL-CIO
Del-Mar-Va Labor Council — AFL-CIO
Maryland State - D.C. — AFL-CIO
National Safety Council



AFL-CIO-CLC

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21230

JOHN L. RANKIN, President
DAVID W. SPRINGHAM, JR., Recording Secretary
MICHAEL J. McHALE, Financial Secretary
PETER P. DEMCHUK, Business Manager

OFFICE:
2701 W. PATAPSCO AVENUE
SUITE 200

Phone: 410-247-5511
800-348-3721
FAX: 410-536-4338

Testimony of

Peter Demchuk, Financial Secretary, IBEW, LOCAL 24

Before the

Finance Committee

On

SB-887— Electric Generation - Transition From Fossil Fuels —
Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account

Strongly Oppose

February 24, 2020

Dear Madam Chair Kelly and Committee Members,

For the record, my name is Peter Demchuk. I am a lifelong resident of Maryland currently residing in District 7 of Baltimore County. I am a 39 year member, and Business Manager, of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 24 located in Baltimore. I represent approximately 2000 hardworking, Maryland tax paying electricians. I started as an apprentice in 1979 and have held numerous positions over the years. The reason I give my background is to show my commitment to not only my profession but to all working men and women in Maryland.

SB-887 is NOT good for my members and other building tradespersons because it would eliminate many construction jobs that we preform maintaining these facilities. I don't see anywhere in the Fossil Fuel Community Transition Account that will address the loss of income to my members. Yes we need to find cleaner ways to generate electricity but the timeline that this bill calls for the elimination of fossil fuel fired powerhouse may be TOO aggressive.

There is no plan cited for the replacement energy source. The average home in the U.S. uses 10,399 KWh annually or 867 kwh per month. MD ranks 20th with 12,372 KWh annually and 1031 KWh per month with 2 out 5 homes using electricity for their main source of heat. The Public Service Commission has delayed a decision on the MD Offshore Wind turbines by six months.

The transition funding cited in the bill is capped at certain limits without any data to support that these finite amounts are sufficient to support the transition of these workers. Especially on the retirement of older workers without subsequent funding to maintain and replenish their defined pension benefits.

Please give SB-887 an unfavorable report.

Thank you,



Peter P. Demchuk

PPD:CLR
AFL-CIO
OPEIU # 2