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Written Testimony of Beitzel Corporation
IN OPPOSITION TO SB 887
Before the Senate Finance Committee
Tuesday February 25, 2020

Chairwoman Kelly and Members of the Senate Finance Committee, Beitzel Corporation (“Beitzel”) respectfully submits this testimony in opposition to SB 887.

Beitzel is a Garrett County business that provides services to the coal industry throughout the state, including AES Warrior Run in Allegany County. Together with its subsidiary, Pillar Innovations, LLC, the companies employ more than 500 people.

As the Legislature considers a variety of potential actions to address energy diversification, it is critical that the voices of Maryland workers and small businesses be included, especially those who are most at risk of job disruptions and economic uprooting as a result of those actions.

SB 887 directly eliminates well-paying jobs for citizens of Allegany and Garrett County by phasing out operations at AES Warrior Run. While the bill specifically targets workers at AES Warrior Run, its impact is wide ranging. Employees of material suppliers and contractors who have built their businesses based on reliable orders from AES may also face job losses. Further, legislatively dissolving one of the region’s largest employers will force those impacted to move to neighboring states where coal power plants continue to operate.

In addition, SB 887’s transitional grant fails to adequately assist all workers who are negatively affected by the bill. The bill only provides grants to support “individuals transition from employment with an electric generating unit.” It fails to account for other individuals whose livelihood would be impacted.

Beitzel agrees that energy diversification should be addressed. However, such development and deployment should be paired with strong labor and procurement standards to grow family sustaining jobs and businesses in affected communities, like Garrett and Allegany County.

Testimony respectfully submitted on behalf of Beitzel Corporation

James Fogartie
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Beitzel Corporation