



HB298 – Utility Regulation – Consideration of Climate and Labor

Testimony before Economic Matters Committee

January 21, 2020

Position: Favorable

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Richard Deutschmann, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in **support of HB298**, to require the Public Service Commission to consider labor standards and climate change in their deliberations. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members).

The world's leading climate scientists warn that we have 10 short years to dramatically reduce our climate-disrupting emissions. In order for our state to do this effectively, we must move forward by coordinating our commissions, agencies and other governmental bodies to this critical goal. Currently, our Public Service Commission (PSC) is making decisions on future, long term energy resources without having to consider the crucial climate goals of the state. This is simply unconscionable and must be changed. This bill fixes this glaring hole in our public discourse and decision-making, by requiring the PSC and other state agencies to consider climate change in all of its deliberations. Passage of this legislation will improve public health and air quality, increase jobs and economic development in green energy, and help to guide Maryland into the clean energy economy of the future that we all want.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

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