

MID-ATLANTIC PIPE TRADES ASSOCIATION



PLUMBERS - STEAMFITTERS - SPRINKLER FITTERS
PIPE FITTERS - PIPE WELDERS - HVAC SERVICE TECH

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Maryland House of Delegates – Economic Matters Committee

TO: Delegate Derrick Davis, Chair; and Member of the Economic Matters Committee.

FROM: Jason Ascher, Political Director – Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

Support HB 40 – Maryland Energy Administration Study on Geothermal Heating and Cooling Systems and Geothermal Energy Workgroup

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association and over fourteen thousand members and families from the United Association Locals across Maryland, I ask that you SUPPORT HB 40.

As we slowly transition away from fossil fuel to more renewable sources, we must consider the impact it will have on the community, the taxpayer, and the displaced workers. Offering renewable energy credits to the end-users of a construction project for having systems, like heating and cooling, powered by renewable sources like geothermal will go a long way to encourage property owners to build them.

But consideration must also be given to how the government spends taxpayer dollars by offering these credits. When spending taxpayer dollars, they should not use low road contractors, who misclassify their workers and pay substandard wages. Taxpayer dollars should be spent on contractors that pay family-sustaining salaries, work with apprenticeship programs that provide highly skilled craftsmen and craftswomen, and provide safety training to ensure that we have safe construction sites. Increased wages lead to increased spending by the workers and local businesses and increased tax dollars for the community.

This study will provide an opportunity to look at how this would affect these three groups and how these renewable energy credits can help improve our community.

For the reasons listed above, I ask that you SUPPORT HB 40 with a favorable report.

Sincerely,
Jason Ascher
Political Director

Plumbers and Gasfitter Local 5 – Camp Springs, MD
Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 10 – Richmond, VA/Roanoke, VA
Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 110 – Norfolk, VA
Road Sprinkler Fitters Local 669 – Columbia, MD

Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486 – Baltimore, MD
Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 489 – Cumberland, MD
Steamfitters Local 602 – Capitol Heights, MD