



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

GEORGE C. HOGAN: Business Manager • THOMAS C. MYERS: President • RICHARD D. WILKINSON: Vice President
JOSEPH F. DABBS: Financial Secretary • RICHARD G. MURPHY: Recording Secretary • PAULO C. HENRIQUES: Treasurer



TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 613 PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY-COAL-GAS-FIRED GENERATING STATIONS FEBRUARY 25, 2021

To: Hon. Dereck E. Davis, Chair, and members of the House Economics Committee
From: Tom Clark, Political Director, IBEW Local 26

Mr. Chair and members of the committee, I respectfully ask that you **oppose HB 613**. This bill is seeking a solution to a global problem, by using local legislation. The well-paying jobs that you are legislating out, are the jobs of your constituents. Prince Georgians that live and play in the County are the ones that hold these positions. These IBEW jobs come with health care, a defined pension, and an annuity. These IBEW benefits are bargained for and do not cost the county or state one penny. Yet this bill will place our members and your residents in line for unemployment, health costs and only add to the overwhelming food insecurities in Prince Georges County.

A cleaner environment is something we all seek. In our Lanham training facility, we are educating young men and women for the green jobs of the future. However, when it comes to electrical “production”, the jobs are not there, yet! Please do not mistake utilization (electric cars and home solar panels) with the “production” of electricity. These generating stations produce electricity using coal, oil and gas. There is no viable clean air solution, at this time. Solar energy can not be stored, and we may never have that technology. Offshore wind might be decades away before we can make a dent in our electric power deficit. It is quite the deficit, in fact Maryland consumes 1 ½ times the amount of electricity it produces. Where does the extra power come from? Where are these well-paying jobs at? Pennsylvania and West Virginia produce the energy our state needs. And they can’t wait until Prince Georges County gives them more work, more well-paying jobs. Please have a viable energy source in place before we ship these jobs across the state line. Right now, the state of Texas has an energy problem and there is a lot of finger pointing. If Prince Georges County ever had a similar problem, this legislation and its legislators would shoulder the blame.

I ask that you not put the cart before the horse, do not stop producing electricity using fossil fuels until you can produce it in a cleaner, greener way. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers is ready for the green jobs of the future, HB 613 is not. Please, members of the committee, **oppose HB 613**.

Sincerely, Tom Clark
IBEW Local 26





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