

MID-ATLANTIC PIPE TRADES ASSOCIATION



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

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Maryland Senate – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

TO: Chairman Pinsky, and Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

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

Oppose SB 414 – Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association and our over 20,000 members and families from United Association Locals across Maryland, I ask that you **OPPOSE SB 414**.

This legislation appears to want to get Maryland to net-zero carbon emission by 2045 and protect the workers who will need to transition from building and maintaining this infrastructure with a “Just Transition.” The problem is it lacks in both areas.

To start, if the government wants us to transition from fossil fuel, then the government should lead. This legislation exempts most public schools and older government buildings from being retrofitted.

Second, you need to allow **all** renewable energy types like carbon capture and nuclear and not limit wind and solar options.

Finally, if you want to have a “just transition” for workers, you need to ensure funding to take care of workers. Retraining workers is all well and good, but workers in the fossil fuel industry typically earn \$40-\$60 per hour, while the jobs in renewable energy pay half that. You need to consider the workers that are close to retirement. These workers have spent decades working hard with the promise of a sound retirement. This legislation does not ensure the funding necessary to make sure these promises are not abandoned.

For the reasons discussed above, I ask you to oppose SB 414.

Sincerely,
Jason Ascher
Political Director
Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

Plumbers and Gasfitter Local 5 – Camp Springs, MD

Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 10 – Richmond, VA/Roanoke, VA

Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 110 – Norfolk, VA

Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486 – Baltimore, MD

Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 489 – Cumberland, MD

Steamfitters Local 669 – Capitol Heights, MD

Road Sprinkler Fitters Local 669 – Columbia, MD