



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 OF HB 66 Electric Generation-Transition Fund February 18, 2021

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

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, I ask that you join with me and our 10,000 members in **opposition** to HB 66. This bill is trying to solve a national and global problem with local closures. This bill will result in the state of Maryland purchasing and consuming power generated by coal in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio. We all want green energy, but innovation has not yet solved the problem of storing solar energy. Until then we are just exporting our jobs to neighboring states, while keeping the pollution. Smog knows no borders!

Along with the inability to store solar energy and Maryland's willingness to export these jobs to other states, I also find some flaws that will drastically harm the lives of the very citizens that you lead. You cap the fund for only those units with 20 or more employees, leaving the families of these dwindling units, out in the cold. It is also stated to only include Maryland residents, and we do live in a very transient area, with many commuters. With that requirement, even more facilities will fall below the 20-employee threshold. Using the transition fund for only those within 3 years of retirement is harming the middle-aged electrician who will lose his or her job, yet on page 12 (5) it seems that you are willing to handout funds to everyone but the "displaced worker. On page 7 your replacement refers to "family sustaining" wages, that is very vague and should be prevailing wages (market rate). On the same note of vagueness, you use "affordable" deductibles and co pays. Can you please define "affordable"? Also noted is the term "residents net income", where you evidently are taking into account multi-income families. Single income, multi-income, all families are hurt by this bill.

In conclusion, I believe this bill is being used as a testing ground for other states. To my Sisters and Brothers in labor, this is life changing legislation, not an experiment to show other state houses across the country. These same Sisters and Brothers, especially the younger group are being trained by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers right now for green energy jobs of the future. We are ready, the technology to store solar energy is not. The state will be simply exporting our jobs until we can produce and store the power we consume. This technology maybe 10 years way. Perhaps a bill to encourage the bright young minds of Maryland to discover these technologies would be more effective than taking away well-paying jobs that this bill mandates. I ask that you please **oppose HB 66** in its entirety. We all want what is best for the Freestate, we all want a cleaner environment. Let's get there together and not sell our jobs to other locales.

Thank you,

Tom Clark, IBEW member and proud Marylander





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