



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 583 CLIMATE SOLUTIONS NOW ACT of 2021 FEBRUARY 11, 2021

To: Hon. Kumar Barve, Chair, Hon. Dana Stein, Vice Chair, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

From: Tom Clark, Political Director, IBEW Local 26

Mr. Chair and members of the committee, I ask that you consider my opposition to HB 583. This bill, as written, poses several problems. Most obvious is the fact that the State Government seems to exclude itself and its projects from the “climate solutions” that this bill imposes on the private sector. Where is the leading by example that we expect from our State government and its leaders?

This bill excludes all schools (minus one per county) and highway projects. Basically, all State projects. Where is the leadership? This bill has set a standard for all to comply, except for the State. It also excludes warehouses, maintenance facilities, transmitter buildings, pumping stations. If you would like to make commercial office buildings your focus, please just write it in the bill.

A major concern of mine is the power plant issue. Looks like you are seeking a date to close these plants and the well-paying jobs that are involved. There is already a Fossil fuel bill that the Assembly is trying to pass. HB 583 is the same bill with autos and tree planting covering up the power plant issue. Forget seeing the forest thru the trees. In this bill, I can't see the power plants thru the trees. I see this bill as eliminating IBEW jobs, good paying jobs. The IBEW and its members are ready and trained for the green economy. However, until you can store solar energy, Maryland is not ready. I suggest you wait until science and invention catch up to your green goals. By closing down power plants in the area, we will just be consuming fossil fuel generated power from neighboring states (Pennsylvania and West Virginia) for 10 or more years, until technology catches up. Buying power from neighboring states is not a solution. Smog knows no borders!

I am worried about other issues that arise from this bill. Labor and the IBEW are included in the workgroup, however left absent from the commission. On page 13, the commission claims to: solicit input from all segments of the population that will be impacted. The women and men of the IBEW will be impacted, as well as their families. Also, on page 29, to use the term major renovation is extremely vague. Please define “major renovation”.

Although I am very much against this bill as written, I would like to acknowledge your effort to make the environment safer for all. I just think you are seeking a local solution to a national and global problem. I would also like to repeat that the State of Maryland needs to lead by example and not exempt itself from the very bill that you have filed. I respectfully ask that you **oppose** bill HB 583.

Tom Clark, IBEW member and proud Marylander





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