



Founded 1889

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HB 583 – Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021

Date: February 11, 2021

To: Chairman Barve, Committee Members of Environment and Transportation

Chairman and Committee members, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition of HB 583. My name is Gerald Jackson, and I am the Assistant Business Manager for the Plumbers & Steamfitter's UA Local Union 486 in Baltimore, Maryland and I'm also the Secretary- Treasurer for the Maryland State and D.C. AFL-CIO and on behalf of the more than 340,000 union members in the state of Maryland, I offer this testimony.

This legislation appears to have a goal of net-zero carbon emissions by year 2045 and protect the workers who will need to transition from building and maintaining this infrastructure with a "Just Transition". I think we have missed the mark in both areas.

If we're being asked to transition from fossil fuel, then the government needs to lead by example: Why does this legislation exempt most public schools and older government buildings from being retro-fitted? Why isn't Carbon Capture and Nuclear being considered as a form of renewable energy along with Wind and Solar Power? Research shows that 30%-40% of Maryland's energy is imported from other states. The states that provide our grid with electric power use fossil fuel sources (Coal Nat. Gas and Nuclear) to supply Maryland with our much needed energy demands. Conversely those states – Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Illinois and Indiana still employ workers in the fossil fuel industry who make good wages and benefits.

Just Transition is a means to replace one industry with another without losing Life Sustaining Wages and Benefits. I'm afraid that this bill leaves a lot to be desired.

For these reasons I'm asking for an unfavorable report **for HB 583.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Gerald Jackson – Secretary- Treasurer Md. State & D.C. AFL-CIO
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