

Committee: Economic Matters
Testimony on: SB170 “Energy Generation Projects – Required Labor Standards”
Position: Support
Hearing Date: March 30, 2023

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club and the other organizations listed below respectfully urge a favorable report on SB170.

This bill will require that individuals who construct most energy generation projects with a capacity of two megawatts or more either be paid no less than the prevailing wage rate or work under a project labor agreement that satisfies the standards set forth in this bill. The covered energy projects include those that have received a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) from the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC), as well as those exempted by the PSC from obtaining a CPCN pursuant to a specified state law provision; the covered projects do not include offshore wind projects.

Our organizations are committed to the principles of equity, justice, and inclusion, and are striving to put these principles at the center of environmental initiatives. These principles include respecting and supporting the rights of workers, and their ability to have good jobs, earn a decent living, and enjoy occupational health and safety protections.

We are proud to stand in solidarity with labor to advocate for strong labor standards in new energy generation projects larger than two megawatts.

As Maryland’s energy economy transforms, it is critical that the jobs created provide good family wages with benefits, and that job training be provided for local residents, women, and minorities.

Maryland should join other states that have passed laws to establish labor standards for energy projects. We urge a favorable report on this bill.

Sincerely,

Josh Tulkin
Chapter Director, Maryland Sierra Club
Josh.Tulkin@mdsierra.org

Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Indivisible Howard County Climate Action Team
Interfaith Power and Light (DC MD NoVA)
Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Maryland Legislative Coalition
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland