



# Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

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## Testimony in Support SB 525 - Public Utilities - Energy Distribution Planning and Required Labor Standards

To: Chairman Kelley and the members of the Finance  
From: Phil Webster, PhD - Lead Advocate for Climate Change  
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland.  
Date: February 15, 2022

The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland (UULM-MD) strongly supports the Energy Distribution Planning and Required Labor Standards in SB 525 - Public Utilities - Energy Distribution Planning and Required Labor Standards.

The UULM-MD is a faith-based advocacy organization based on the Principles of Unitarian Universalism. Two Principles are particularly relevant. The Second Principle, Justice, equity and compassion in human relations and the Seventh Principle, Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

We believe in justice, equity and compassion in human relations. We know that global climate change impacts marginalized communities first and worse. Accelerating the transition to clean green energy requires a modern electrical grid. Which needs to be built with workers who receive fair and equitable labor standards and family-sustaining jobs. How can there be justice and equity if one part of society is reaping in the benefits, while another is paying all of the costs?

We also believe that we should all have respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. We also know that the growing use of fossil fuels increases greenhouse gasses leading to increasing global temperatures, increased frequency and intensity of severe weather and sea level rise. Maryland is particularly susceptible to loss of coastal line due to sea level rise and agricultural land due to salt intrusion, so being proactive is in our best interest. Please keep us on the right and moral path towards a livable climate and a sustainable world. We owe it to our children.

SB 525 will help Maryland undertake the improvements needed to have a resilient electricity grid that supports the clean-energy economy and workers of the future. We support this bill and recommend a FAVORABLE report in committee.

*Phil Webster, PhD*

Lead Advocate for Climate Change UULM-MD

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