



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

1

Testimony in Support

HB 88 - Public Utilities - Energy Distribution Planning and Required Labor Standards

To: Chairman Wilson and the members of the Economic Matters Committee

From: Phil Webster, PhD Lead Advocate, Climate Change
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland.

Date: February 3, 2022

The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland (UULM-MD) strongly supports the Energy Distribution Planning and Required Labor Standards in **HB 88 - 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.

HB 88 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

Lead Advocate Climate Change UULM-MD

UULM-MD c/o UU Church of Annapolis 333 Dubois Road Annapolis, MD 21401 410-266-8044,

www.uulmmd.org info@uulmmd.org www.facebook.com/uulmmd www.Twitter.com/uulmmd