

# Journeyman Pipe Fitters and Apprentices



## Local Union No. 602

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AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO

### UA STEAMFITTERS LOCAL 602 TESTIMONY

#### CB 13-22, COMPREHENSIVE BUILDING DECARBONIZATION

#### POSITION: OPPOSE / UNFAVORABLE

Dear Members of the Council:

On behalf of UA Steamfitters Local 602, our over 5,300 Journeyman and Apprentices, I write in strong opposition to CB13-22.

As a preliminary legislative measure advancing a prospective framework for future electrification, this legislation is a misguided and reckless approach towards building greater clean energy density throughout Montgomery County.

Generally, our union and members support a reduction of overall emissions, as a percentage of a larger diverse energy portfolio. Achieving that, however, must be a result of a balanced approach to our overall energy portfolio, while efficiently and economically addressing necessary demand. To that point, reducing cheap natural gas sources without also increasing other carbon-free sources, like nuclear and hydrogen, is perhaps the least efficient and most expensive means of achieving a carbon-free future. Moreover, making fossil fuel systems that we install and service illegal, while expanding only electrification, fails to address the vast majority of source-energy used to energize the very buildings that are targeted for decarbonization and electrification: coal.

This Council and Executive have already done a great deal to address the issue of expanding Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS). These include:

- Recent legislation to invest nearly \$20 million annually in the County's Green Bank for energy efficiency upgrades across the County
- Expanding the County's green buildings property tax credit, and
- Expanding the County's commercial property-assessed clean energy (CPACE) program.

These are reasonable measures. However, this legislation is a bridge too far, setting a framework of picking winners and losers in an evolving energy transition, by excluding and making illegal scopes-of-work that perform natural gas work.

In conclusion, this legislation takes a radical and reckless approach to reduction of emissions, targets good, existing jobs with benefits, and replaces them with a completely unknown labor force.

For these reasons, we strongly oppose CB 13-22.

Sincerely,

*Christopher M. Madello*

Chris Madello  
Business Manager / Financial Secretary Treasurer