

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

AFFILIATED WITH:

Baltimore-D.C. Metro Building Trades Council — AFL-CIO
Baltimore Port Council
Baltimore Metro Council — AFL-CIO
Central MD Labor Council — AFL-CIO
Del-Mar-Va Labor Council — AFL-CIO
Maryland State - D.C. — AFL-CIO
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Written Testimony of

Rico Albacarys, Assistant Business Manager, IBEW LOCAL 24

Before the

Economic Matters Committee On

HB 088 Public Utilities - Energy Distribution Planning and Required Labor Standards

Support

February 1, 2022

Chairman Wilson and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in **support** of House Bill 088.

My name is Rico Albacarys and I'm an employee and member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 24, in Baltimore.

Maryland is at a unique crossroads in its future of energy production and distribution. The State has the resources and foresight to improve our energy grid for future generations. Members of the Building Trades are not climate change deniers, nor are we anti-environment. We are for responsible legislation, considering the needs of working men and women in the State, while addressing the issue of climate change. HB 088 accomplishes both, while working to make our grid more efficient and resilient for years to come.

The proposed workgroup has stakeholders from every corner of our society and economy. The labor standards are crucial, making sure the clean energy jobs of the future will be the family sustaining jobs of the future. The apprenticeship standards ensure Marylanders are receiving the quality training necessary to perform these very dangerous jobs. The plan for outreach creates opportunities for some of our most vulnerable citizens. All of this while moving Maryland towards a clean energy future and strengthening our electrical infrastructure.

This is why I'm asking you to **support** HB 088.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. A." followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Rico Albacarys

Assistant Business Manager