

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
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Written Testimony of
Rico Albacarys, Assistant Business Agent, IBEW LOCAL 24
Before the Senate Finance Committee On
SB 781 Economic Development – Regional Additive Manufacturing Partnership of
Maryland – Alterations

Favorable With Amendments

February 26, 2024

Madam Chair Beidle and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 781, which aims to promote advanced manufacturing in our region through the Regional Advanced Manufacturing Partnership of Maryland. However, I am concerned about the lack of representation for labor on the Executive Board of the Partnership.

While I appreciate the proposed changes and their intention to advance manufacturing, it's crucial to ensure that labor and workers' interests are adequately represented. As it stands, the Board lacks representation from labor organizations or workers themselves. Considering the significant impact of Partnership decisions on the workforce, it's imperative to include labor representation on the Board. I urge you to amend the legislation to designate seats for labor representatives on the Executive Board. Including labor representatives will ensure a more balanced decision-making process, safeguard workers' rights, and bring valuable expertise to discussions on workforce development, training, and safety.

Involving labor in the Partnership will foster collaboration between stakeholders, leading to more sustainable economic development in our region. I hope you take this amendment into consideration.

Sincerely,

Rico Albacarys
Assistant Business Agent IBEW Local 24