

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

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Baltimore Port Council
Baltimore Metro Council - AFL-CIO
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Written Testimony of
Rico Albacarys, Assistant Business Agent, IBEW LOCAL 24
Before the House Economic Matters Committee On
HB 398 Abundant Affordable Clean Energy - Procurement and Development (AACE Act)

Support

February 4, 2025

Chairman Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Committee Members,

My name is Rico Albacarys, and I am a member and employee of IBEW Local 24, writing to express our **support for House Bill 398**, which takes decisive action to secure an affordable and sustainable energy future for our state. Maryland's energy future depends on reliable, in-state power generation. With our state importing 40% of its electricity and facing a potential energy shortfall by 2026, HB 398 establishes a necessary framework to ensure grid reliability while meeting clean energy goals.

HB 398 creates a much-needed procurement process for battery storage, which is essential as we transition to a clean energy future. By securing the continued operation of Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, we preserve Maryland's largest source of carbon-free electricity and reduce reliance on costly, volatile out-of-state energy markets. Lastly, by improving procurement for new solar projects, the bill maximizes Maryland's potential, creates good-paying jobs, and delivers affordable clean energy to consumers.

HB 398 strengthens our energy resilience and sustainability while protecting ratepayers from unpredictable price spikes. We urge the Committee to **support HB 398** to ensure a resilient, forward-thinking energy policy that benefits workers and consumers while upholding Maryland's values of reliability, sustainability, and affordability. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rico Albacarys
Assistant Business Agent
IBEW Local 24