

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
National Safety Council



C. SAMUEL CURRERI, President
DAVID W. SPRINGHAM, JR., Recording Secretary
JEROME T. MILLER, Financial Secretary
MICHAEL J. MCHALE, Business Manager

OFFICE:
2701 W. PATAPSCO AVENUE
SUITE 200

AFL-CIO-CLC

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21230

Phone: 410-247-5511
FAX: 410-536-4338

Written Testimony of
Rico Albacarys, Assistant Business Agent, IBEW LOCAL 24
Before the House Economic Matters Committee On
HB 900 Electricity - Data Centers - Rate Schedule and Requirements

Oppose

February 18, 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. I'm writing to express our **opposition to House Bill 900**, which creates an extra burden for Maryland's data center industry. Maryland has stated its intention to welcome the industry, recognizing its potential to generate significant economic growth and high-paying jobs. HB 900 will send mixed signals to developers considering Maryland for future investment, making it less likely they will choose us over competing states.

Data center construction requires thousands of work hours performed by skilled tradespeople. These projects provide not just immediate job opportunities, but also long-term employment for maintenance and expansion. By discouraging data center investment, this legislation would directly impact the livelihoods of Maryland's workers, slowing job creation and limiting career advancement opportunities in our State.

While we understand the intent of HB 900, we believe the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) is the appropriate body to oversee cost allocation for electricity use. They have the expertise and regulatory framework necessary to ensure that all industries, including data centers, are paying their fair share.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to issue an **unfavorable** report on HB 900.

Sincerely,

Rico Albacarys
Assistant Business Agent
IBEW Local 24