



# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

JOSEPH F. DABBS: Business Manager • THOMAS C. MYERS: President • RICHARD D. WILKINSON: Vice President  
CHRISTOPHER M. CASH: Financial Secretary • RICHARD G. MURPHY: Recording Secretary • WILLIAM T. NG: Treasurer



## TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 900 ELECTRICITY-DATA CENTERS -RATE SCHEDULE AND REQUIREMENTS February 20, 2025

TO: Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby and Members of the Economic Matters Committee  
FROM: Tom Clark, Political Director, Int. Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, members of the Committee, Local 26 and working men in women of Maryland **oppose HB 900**. During a time when we are in a Budget crisis, why are we handcuffing an industry that quite can simply put Maryland “in the black”. We are so close to making the Freestate a player in the Data Center, why throw a wrench in the works now.

HB 900 wants to ensure that the data center industry pays full cost for electricity and protect Maryland ratepayers, Local 26 could not agree more. However, this should **only** be done by the regulatory role of the Public Service Commission (PSC), the experts in this field. This should not be done by the ideas of this humble electrician or by a piece of legislation. I would also point out that this legislation is aimed at the data center industry and no other energy culprits like the adoption of electrical vehicles, hydrogen utilization, onshoring of manufacturing and the electrification industry. Members of the Committee, data centers are not the singular reason for increases in electricity demand.

IBEW 26 is 13,000 members strong. For the last 10 years we have had full employment, for one reason, the data center industry. However, our Maryland members must cross the Potomac and head to Virginia for this profitable and necessary industry. We have a pipeline of young workers being trained right now, full of Maryland residents. This past September our Local union, located in Lanham, Maryland accepted a national Building Trade record of 500 -1st year apprentices. Labor is ready to go, we just need Annapolis to allow this to happen and let the PSC do its job. Let's stop haphazardly throwing out the slogan, “Maryland is open for business” and accept that we are in a digital and information world that needs data centers, jobs and tax revenue that this thriving industry offers.





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I ask that the committee to **oppose HB 900**, let the PSC regulate the power demands, let this 21<sup>st</sup> century industry bring jobs, and tax revenue and let's dig ourselves out of this budget crisis. Thank you.

