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March 25, 2025

Legislative Position: Unfavorable
House Bill 850
Procurement - Public Work Contracts - Data Dashboard
Senate Finance Committee

Dear Chair Beidle and members of the committee:

Established in 1950, the Associated Utility Contractors of Maryland, Inc. (AUC) is dedicated to advancing the utility contracting industry across the state. Our mission is to foster strong relationships between utility contractors and their clients, uphold the highest professional standards within the industry, and elevate the reputation of utility professionals within the business community. We actively advocate for public policies that address industry challenges and contribute to improving Maryland's overall business environment.

As amended, HB 850 creates a workgroup to study the feasibility of creating a data dashboard to make certain information about public works contracts available for public view. While AUC maintains significant reservations about the development of a data dashboard, reservations which were highlighted in our letter to the House Health and Government Operations Committee, we feel strongly that should this legislation creating the workgroup pass its membership should include representatives from a statewide contractors organization. As currently drafted, the membership is composed only of representatives of labor organizations. To fully understand the impact the creation of such a data dash board would have on merit based contractors, representatives from those groups should be included.

We respectfully request an unfavorable report on HB 850 as currently drafted. However, we strongly believe the workgroup should include a representative of a statewide building/contracting organization if the bill were to move forward.

Sincerely,

The Associated Utility Contractors of Maryland (AUC)

