

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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AFL-CIO-CLC
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21230

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

OFFICE:
2701 W. PATAPSCO AVE
SUITE 200

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

Written Testimony of

Rico Albacarys, Assistant Business Agent, IBEW LOCAL 24

Before the Economic Matters Committee On

HB 793 Offshore Wind Energy – State Goals and Procurement

Support

March 2, 2023

Chairman Wilson and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my **support** for **HB 793**. As you are aware, the ongoing climate crisis requires urgent action to transition to clean energy sources. Raising Maryland's offshore wind goals is a critical step in reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and mitigating the impacts of climate change. Moreover, this transition to clean energy will create a significant number of jobs and boost the local economy.

It is important to note the use of Community Benefit Agreements for offshore wind procurement. These agreements ensure that skilled apprentices, particularly those from underrepresented communities, are provided with career training opportunities and fair wages. As a result, community benefits agreements contribute to a more equitable and just transition to clean energy.

Stabilizing the cost of offshore wind energy to ratepayers is essential to ensure that this transition is not burdensome on Maryland residents. By making clean energy affordable, we can encourage its use, reducing our carbon footprint and contributing to a healthier planet.

I ask you to vote **favorably** on **HB 793**, moving Maryland towards an equitable, clean energy future.

Sincerely,

Rico Albacarys

Assistant Business Agent IBEW Local 24