



Maryland Senate – Education, Energy and Environment Committee
Chair: Senator Brian Feldman
Vice-Chair: Senator Cheryl Kagan

Senate Bill 0781 – Offshore Wind Energy - State Goals and Procurement (Promoting Offshore Wind Energy Resources Act)

Position: **Support – Favorable**

The Ironworkers of the Mid-Atlantic States District Council, representing ironworkers across the state of Maryland, support Senate Bill 0781. Our organization and affiliated apprenticeship program have been at the forefront of developing the workforce for this industry, including creating a Global Wind Organization certified offshore wind training facility in Prince George’s County, the first of its kind in the Mid-Atlantic region, to directly train Maryland residents to construct and erect the future turbines and develop the supply chain.

Maryland stands at the forefront of a rapidly growing industry in Offshore Wind development including tens of billions in supply chain manufacturing, construction, and workforce development. Years in the making and stakeholder participation from federal agencies, state leaders, environmental groups and labor, has brought progress on ensuring that we reach these goals while developing inclusive strategies for all residents of Maryland. We have a strong track record of local hiring and working with school systems and local workforce boards in a few counties. We also have a diverse workforce, with about half our membership being of minority-group representation.

The General Assembly has already set goals for reduction of greenhouse emissions by 2031 by 60% and net-zero goals by 2045 in the last session with bill Senate Bill 0528 – Climate Solutions Now Act. The development of offshore wind is part of this strategy, and we want to make sure every Marylander can benefit directly from these goals.

As other energy systems transition out, while energy demand grows with increased economic activity, we need to make sure we speak for workers and help to support them in this transition to new jobs created in the energy sector. Therefore, the bill includes input from labor and trade organizations with improved language around Community Benefit Agreements, and labor peace agreements.

Additionally, we have developed successful relationships and agreements with existing developer partners, such as US Wind and Ørsted, two of the major global wind developers. Knowing that everyone in the industry has worked so closely together in developing this offshore wind future, we can count on its success to help Maryland reach its climate and carbon emission goals and leave no one behind.

We urge the committee for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Sebastian Feculak
Political Coordinator – Mid-Atlantic States District Council