



March 6, 2023

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair
Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Written Testimony of Victoria Leonard on
SB 781: Offshore Wind Energy - State Goals and Procurement
(Promoting Offshore Wind Energy Resources Act)
Position: Support**

Thank you Chair Feldman and Vice Chair Kagan and members of the committee for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of SB 781.

My name is Victoria Leonard, Political and Legislative Director for the Baltimore Washington Laborers' District Council (BWLDC), an affiliate of the Laborers' International Union of North America, or LiUNA for short. The BWLDC represents more than 7,500 members across Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Our members are proudly employed on many infrastructure construction projects across the region.

LiUNA supports SB 781. We appreciate that the bill incorporates the use of community benefit agreements, community workforce agreements, and project labor agreements. These agreements enable state and local agencies to use market-based, project efficiency tools to ensure their construction projects are on time and on budget, and that local workers are getting the jobs created by local tax investments.

Any qualified contractor can bid to work under a PLA on a public project. These project agreements contribute to a more sound local tax base with more income put into circulation to the benefit of local small businesses. Furthermore, the PLA model promotes career training opportunities for local residents – particularly women, minorities and veterans. For these reasons, it makes sense that moving forward the renewable energy industry should be built with PLAs.

Please issue a favorable report on SB 781.