




7833 Walker Drive, Suite 400  
Greenbelt, MD 20770  
301.446.0002 • Fax: 301.446.0018  
www.smacnaatl.org  


February 20, 2024

***HB-579 Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and Related Approvals – Definition of Generating Station (Critical Infrastructure Streamlining Act of 2024)***

**I ask for a favorable vote on HB-579**

Chairman Wilson and Committee members of the Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Kurt Snyder, and I am the executive director for the Sheet Metal Contractors National Association, Mid-Atlantic Chapter. Our office is in Greenbelt, MD.

I write today to express our strong support for House Bill 579. The addition of data centers, within a scaled development plan, will bring jobs, tax credits, and revenue to Maryland.

SMACNA Mid-Atlantic represents 22 construction firms, nearly 1,100 skilled professionals, and dozens of future professionals within the 5-year apprenticeship program. SMACNA Mid-Atlantic is an association of premier construction specialty contractors who utilize the latest technology and complete work to the highest standards per SMACNA technical standards and manuals widely respected across the United States and Canada.

Years ago, I was the senior engineering officer on a Navy warship and those vessels have multiple complex gas turbine power producing generators and engines for propulsion. These engineering systems combined with: jet fuel, helicopters, missiles, munitions, torpedoes and more. The point – when programs are managed professionally, all those variables can integrate and still maintain safe environments.

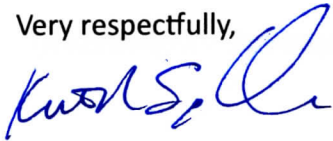
The impact of back up generating stations is far less than an average warehousing or fulfillment center. Many of these centers are in Maryland. According to the University of Southern California (USC) Environmental Health Centers, distribution center activity significantly impacts public health due to particulate pollution emitted by trucks. Other information points to indoor pollution caused by forklifts, etc. Lastly, these warehousing facilities consume large tracts of land in Maryland. Not to mention the power requirements of each warehousing operation...

Most importantly, House Bill 579, when approached properly, is an investment into technology and careers for Marylanders. Again, the taxes and revenue will be present, too.

I know this testimony will be one of many. But I have personally seen that any operation, with the right planning and professional engineering development, can flourish.

Please consider a favorable report for this very important bill.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kurt R. Snyder", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kurt R. Snyder  
Executive Director  
SMACNA Mid-Atlantic