



---

## House Economic Matters Committee

**To:** Delegate CT Wilson, Chair; Delegate Brian Crosby, Vice-Chair; and Members of the Committee.  
**From:** Jason Ascher, Political Director, Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association.

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

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association and our five United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters Locals, which represent 10,000+ Plumbers, Steamfitter, Welders, HVAC Techs, and Sprinkler Fitters across Maryland, I ask you to **SUPPORT HB 579.**

With almost everything we use in our daily lives requiring electricity and data, it is vital to streamline the process to update the critical infrastructure that supports it. We need to ensure we can quickly build or upgrade this infrastructure while having the proper backup to ensure this infrastructure works no matter the situation. Streamlining the process to upgrade and backup critical infrastructure is crucial for several reasons:

1. **Minimize Downtime:** Efficient processes ensure that upgrades and backups happen swiftly, reducing the duration of system downtime
2. **Enhance Security:** Regular upgrades help patch vulnerabilities and strengthen security measures, protecting critical infrastructure from cyber threats and potential breaches. Timely backups also provide a safety net in case of security incidents or data loss, allowing for quick restoration and minimal disruption.
3. **Ensure Reliability:** Streamlined processes contribute to the reliability of critical infrastructure systems by ensuring that they are consistently up-to-date and functioning optimally.
4. **Cost Savings:** By minimizing downtime, enhancing security, and optimizing resources, streamlined processes ultimately contribute to cost savings for organizations. Avoiding prolonged outages, data breaches, and inefficient resource utilization can lead to significant financial benefits in the long run.

Streamlining the process to upgrade and backup critical infrastructure is essential for maintaining operational efficiency, security, reliability, and compliance while maximizing cost-effectiveness and resource utilization. For the reason stated above, please **SUPPORT HB 579.**

Sincerely,

Jason Ascher  
Political Director  
Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

MID-ATLANTIC PIPE TRADES ASSOCIATION



**7050 Oakland Mills Road**

**Suite 180**

**Columbia, MD 21046**

**Phone: 410-290-3890**

**[www.midatlanticpipetrades.org](http://www.midatlanticpipetrades.org)**

---

---

**Plumbers and Gasfitter Local 5** – Camp Springs, MD  
**Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 10** – Richmond, VA/Roanoke, VA  
**Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 110** – Norfolk, VA  
**Road Sprinkler Fitters Local 669** – Columbia, MD

**Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486** – Baltimore, MD  
**Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 489** – Cumberland, MD  
**Steamfitters Local 602** – Capitol Heights, MD