



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 579 CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVIENCE-DEFINITION OF GENERATING STATION (CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE STREAMLINING ACT OF 2024) February 22, 2024

TO: Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby and members of the House Economic Matters Committee
FROM: Tom Clark, Political Director, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26

Mr. Chair, and Mr. Vice Chair, and members of the Committee, I ask that you join me in **support** of **HB 579**, a bill that works for Maryland and puts Marylanders to work. This piece of legislation attracts businesses to our state, businesses of the future like health sciences and cybersecurity.

Our state is a central point for so many areas of technology. I 270 is known as the “Technology Corridor” or “Life Sciences Corridor”. Being so close to the Nation’s Capitol, the Freestate is a hub for Defense Contractors and Cyber Security companies. Of course, “as the crow flies”, we are just a few miles from Northern Virginia, which services two thirds of the world’s internet traffic. The beauty of **HB 579** is that it streamlines the process of attracting these businesses, while protecting Maryland’s land, air, and people.

The Critical Infrastructure Streamlining Act of 2024, entices the Business community to operate in Maryland. The previous administration used the slogan, “Maryland is open for Business”. A nice slogan, but no actions were taken. This piece of legislation makes things happen, like enticing Cybersecurity companies to relocate here. It attracts the mega companies like Amazon and Google, it increases our foothold on the Science Technology market, and most importantly it puts our citizens to work. With the market for building office space at an all time low, Marylanders need to start building for the Cyber future. **HB 579** delivers that future, while safeguarding the Bay, its rivers, streams and the air we breathe. It streamlines the process of allowing businesses to grow, yet all Local permitting still applies.

I applaud the drafters of this bill, for looking out for Maryland jobs. As you know, our state has the lowest unemployment rate of any state. If this Bill is passed into law, it will aid in giving Maryland the title of “Best state for working families”. So please join me in full **support** of **HB 579**. Thank you!

