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January 28, 2025

Legislative Position: Favorable
House Bill 61
Public School Construction and Renovation -
Solar Canopies for School Parking Lots - Underground Infrastructure
House Appropriations Committee

Dear Chairman Barnes and members of the committee:

Established in 1950, the Associated Utility Contractors of Maryland, Inc. (AUC) is dedicated to advancing the utility contracting industry across the state. Our mission is to foster strong relationships between utility contractors and their clients, uphold the highest professional standards within the industry, and elevate the reputation of utility professionals within the business community. We actively advocate for public policies that address industry challenges and contribute to improving Maryland's overall business environment.

We are writing to express our strong support for HB 61. As representatives of the underground utility construction industry, we believe this legislation will have a positive impact on our industry, leading to more projects and creating jobs.

By requiring that each construction project or major renovation project of a public school building proposed after December 31, 2025, include the necessary underground infrastructure to support solar canopy installation, this bill will create a significant demand for our services. This, in turn, will lead to increased economic activity and job creation in our industry.

According to the fiscal note, the costs associated with this requirement are estimated to be minimal and we believe there are significant long-term benefits like promoting renewable energy and job creation.

AUC urges your support of HB 61 and the positive impacts it will have on our industry and our communities, such as job creation and the adoption of renewable energy.

Sincerely,
The Associated Utility Contractors of Maryland (AUC)