



# PLUMBERS LOCAL UNION NO. 5

UNITED ASSOCIATION OF JOURNEYMEN AND APPRENTICES OF THE PLUMBING AND PIPE FITTING INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, AFL-CIO

4755 Walden Ln. Lanham, MD 20706 • 301-899-7861 (T) • 301-899-7868 (F)



## SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE & HOUSE ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE

### **SB931 / HB1036 FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT**

Chair Feldman, Chair Wilson, and Members of the Committees,

On behalf of UA Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 5, representing over 1,900 skilled members and 400 apprentices, I submit this testimony in Favorable with Amendment to SB931 / HB1036. While the effort to assess Maryland's future energy needs is appreciated, the bill's focus on utility-owned generation partnerships is too narrow. Instead, a broader, more competitive strategy is needed to ensure affordability, efficiency, and fairness for both ratepayers and workers.

#### **A Comprehensive Approach for a Stronger Energy Future**

SB931 / HB1036 assumes that reintegrating utilities into generation ownership is the best solution, but history suggests otherwise. Utility ownership has often led to higher costs without proportionate benefits. A truly reliable and cost-effective energy future must explore all procurement models—competitive bidding, merchant generation, and private investment.

A more inclusive, data-driven study has already been proposed in SB909 / HB1037, which evaluates competitive procurement strategies. Rather than duplicating efforts with a biased study favoring utility-owned generation, SB931 / HB1036 should be amended to align with SB909 / HB1037 for a more balanced assessment.

#### **Market-Driven Solutions Are More Cost-Effective**

Maryland's competitive energy market has successfully kept prices lower and fostered innovation. SB931 / HB1036, in its current form, risks shifting Maryland away from this model, potentially increasing costs and reducing competition. Instead, Maryland should emphasize market-driven procurement strategies that attract private investment, create jobs, and modernize infrastructure without burdening ratepayers. Competitive bidding and merchant generation have already demonstrated their ability to deliver affordable, sustainable, and reliable energy.

#### **Supporting the Competitive Approach Advocated by Constellation**

Constellation's market-based framework leverages private-sector investment, avoiding costly utility-backed projects that could inflate rates. A truly effective PSC study must prioritize competitive energy procurement strategies rather than disproportionately emphasizing utility-owned partnerships.

## **Necessary Amendments for SB931 / HB1036**

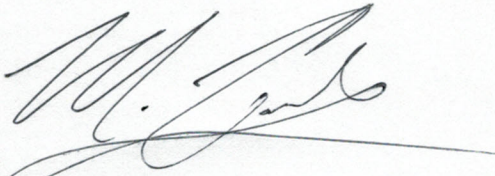
To secure cost-effective and sustainable energy solutions, I strongly urge the committee to amend SB931 / HB1036 by:

- Expanding the study's scope to align with SB909 / HB1037, evaluating all procurement models fairly.
- Conducting a thorough cost analysis comparing utility ownership to competitive market-driven investments to protect ratepayers.
- Maintaining Maryland's strong energy market to encourage private-sector investment and innovation.

## **Conclusion**

Maryland needs a practical, long-term energy strategy centered on affordability, competition, and sustainability. While SB931 / HB1036 initiates an important discussion, its focus on utility partnerships is too restrictive. To ensure the best energy solutions at the lowest cost, the bill must be amended to align with SB909 / HB1037 and incorporate proven competitive, market-based strategies.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



**Michael Canales**  
Assistant Business Manager  
UA Plumbers & Gasfitters Local # 5

---

**Terriea "T" L. Smalls**  
Business Mgr. / Financial Sec-Treas.

**Michael S. Canales, Jr.**  
Asst. Business Manager

**Anthony A. Solis**  
Business Rep. and Organizer

**Julius Wright**  
Business Rep. and Organizer