

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

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Written Testimony of
Rico Albacarys, Assistant Business Agent, IBEW LOCAL 24
Before the House Economic Matters Committee On
HB 1035 Public Utilities - Electricity Generation Planning - Procurement, Permitting, and
Co-Location (Next Generation Energy Act)

Favorable with Amendments

February 26, 2025

Chairman Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Committee Members,

My name is Rico Albacarys, and I am a member and employee of IBEW Local 24, writing in reference to HB 1035. The Next Generation Energy Act will enhance Maryland's energy infrastructure by promoting the development of new nuclear energy generation stations and streamlining the procurement and permitting processes.

However, to fully address Maryland's energy needs and enhance reliability, we propose amendments to include a battery storage procurement component and accompanying labor standards. Battery storage is essential for maximizing the efficiency of energy generation sources, no matter the type. This approach enhances grid stability, ensuring a consistent energy supply, even during fluctuations in generation or demand. It also protects consumers from volatility by using stored energy to mitigate price spikes.

Incorporating battery storage into HB 1035 creates a solution that more closely aligns with energy goals while creating quality jobs for Marylanders. We urge the Committee to consider this addition and pass a bill that secures Maryland's energy future through a balanced and forward-thinking strategy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rico Albacarys
Assistant Business Agent
IBEW Local 24