



SUBMITTED TO THE HOUSE ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE & SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND  
THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

REGARDING SB937 / HB1035 – SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

Chairs Feldman and Wilson, and distinguished members of the committees, I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Mechanical Contractors Association of Metropolitan Washington (MCAMW). Representing 200 construction contractors employing approximately 10,000 workers and 1,000 apprentices across the DMV region, our organization is deeply invested in policies that ensure a sustainable energy future for Maryland while supporting the skilled workforce that powers our infrastructure. Our partnerships with local unions, hiring halls, and apprenticeship training centers under the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association strengthen Maryland's labor pipeline, contributing to an economic footprint of \$2 billion in annual revenue and generating \$500 million in state, federal, and local tax contributions each year.

This legislation, while well-intentioned, contains provisions that must be refined to ensure Maryland remains competitive in energy infrastructure and job creation. First, the proposed restrictions on behind-the-meter (BTM) configurations for data centers are premature. The regulatory landscape on this issue is still evolving at FERC, and any policy restricting BTM options should be developed only after the federal process is fully resolved. Misrepresentations made at the FERC Colocation Technical Conference by Maryland Senator Katie Fry Hester have influenced ongoing discussions, leading to the mistaken perception that Maryland holds a unified stance on this issue. However, there is no consensus within the Maryland General Assembly or the broader energy sector on this matter. Our signatory union partners at the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association (UA), as well as IBEW Local 26, the Ironworkers District Council of the Mid-Atlantic States, and represented by attorney Roger Manno, are engaged in active FERC litigation on this matter. Any state-level action should wait until FERC has resolved these issues to ensure Maryland's regulatory decisions are well-informed and aligned with broader market developments.

Second, Maryland's commitment to nuclear energy is commendable, but its procurement model requires refinement. While the framework outlined in SB937 / HB1035 takes a step forward, the OREC-like model is insufficient to attract the necessary private investment. MCAMW strongly supports the approach taken in Senator Brooks' Decarbonization Infrastructure Solutions Act (SB716), which would elevate nuclear energy to Tier 1 of the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). We also support an amendment proffered by Constellation that would establish a state-level safeguard in the event that federal Production Tax Credits (PTCs) are reduced or eliminated. Ensuring the financial sustainability of Maryland's existing nuclear assets, particularly Calvert Cliffs, is critical for maintaining a stable, carbon-free energy supply. Moreover, collaboration with stakeholders—including private sector partners with operational experience—will be necessary to build a procurement structure that fosters long-term investment in Maryland's nuclear sector.

Another pressing concern is the study language regarding utility-owned generation. The scope of this study is too narrow and fails to consider the full range of procurement structures that could serve Maryland's energy needs. Instead of focusing solely on one model, policymakers should adopt a broader evaluation approach, similar to what is outlined in the Hester/Crosby bill, which examines multiple procurement strategies. A robust and data-driven analysis of Maryland's energy procurement options is essential to ensure cost efficiency and reliability.

The energy policy decisions Maryland makes today will have lasting impacts on the workforce, economic growth, and energy stability of the state. While SB937 / HB1035 represents an important step forward, it must be amended to reflect the realities of an evolving energy landscape. Removing unnecessary restrictions on data center energy configurations, strengthening the nuclear procurement framework through Constellation's proposed amendment, and broadening the scope of the utility study will ensure a stronger, more sustainable energy future.

I appreciate your time and consideration and welcome further discussion on these matters.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TB' or 'T. Bello', with a stylized, cursive script.

Thomas Bello  
Executive Vice President  
Mechanical Contractors Association of Metropolitan Washington (MCAMW)