



February 28, 2025

The Honorable CT Wilson, Chair
The Honorable Brian Crosby, Vice Chair
House Economic Matters Committee
230 & 231 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Testimony of Ray Baker, Maryland Director, Baltimore-DC Building Trades
on HB 1035: Public Utilities - Electricity Generation Planning -
Procurement, Permitting, and Co-Location (Next Generation Energy Act)
Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS**

Thank you Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee for the opportunity to offer testimony on HB 1035.

My name is Ray Baker. I am the Maryland Director of the Baltimore-DC Building Trades (BDCBT). The BDCBT's 28 affiliates represent more than 30,000 union construction workers across Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

BDCBT supports HB 1035 for two main reasons. First, it positions the State of Maryland to take advantage of any changes in federal regulations or laws related to dispatchable energy. For example, the US Senate and the House of Representatives are considering legislation that would permit dispatchable power plants to gain priority in interconnection queues. In addition, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is reviewing a proposal by the PJM Interconnection, which serves Maryland, to give 50 generating projects that meet reliability oriented criteria a one-time, fast track interconnection review.

Second, HB 1035 promotes nuclear power generation in Maryland. What we especially appreciate is that the bill mandates the labor standards as well as local and minority business opportunities. In particular, the labor standards will ensure that any nuclear energy generation construction project produces quality jobs for Maryland residents and is delivered on time and on budget for Maryland ratepayers.

However, we do suggest amending the bill to include battery storage, with accompanying labor standards. Battery storage is essential for maximizing the efficiency of existing and new energy generation sources, no matter the type. Battery storage enhances grid stability, ensuring a consistent energy supply, even during fluctuations in generation or demand. It also protects consumers from volatile prices by using stored energy to mitigate price spikes.

The BDCBT urges the committee to issue a "favorable with amendments" report on HB 1035.

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