



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)



IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 716 – THE DECARBONIZATION INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS ACT OF 2025

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT, AND THE HOUSE ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE

Chairs Feldman and Wilson, and members of the Senate Education,
Energy and Environment Committee, and the House Economic Matters
Committee,

On behalf of UA Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 5, representing over 1,900 members, 400
apprentices, and their families, I appreciate the opportunity to express our strong support for
Senate Bill 716, the Decarbonization Infrastructure Solutions Act of 2025.

Supporting Senate Bill 716

As a union committed to building and maintaining critical infrastructure, our members have played a
vital role in ensuring Maryland has safe, efficient, and reliable energy systems. With the state
facing growing energy reliability challenges, we must invest in proven, long-term solutions
that are both clean and dependable. Nuclear energy is that solution—the only large-scale,
carbon-free power source that delivers continuous, on-demand electricity to keep homes,
businesses, and industries running.

Maryland's Urgent Energy Challenge

Maryland's energy demand is rising, while dispatchable power sources are being retired faster than
they can be replaced. Increasing dependence on imported electricity leaves residents and businesses
vulnerable to price fluctuations and supply shortages. The Maryland Public Service Commission
(PSC) and PJM Interconnection warn that grid reliability is at risk as traditional baseload plants shut
down. While renewables like wind and solar are essential, they cannot provide constant, reliable
power without significant backup generation.

Why Nuclear?

Nuclear power is the only clean energy source that offers:

- **Reliability** – Unlike wind and solar, nuclear runs at full capacity day and night, ensuring a
stable energy grid.
- **Scalability** – Expanding Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, adding a third reactor, and
developing Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) will meet Maryland's growing energy needs
without increasing carbon emissions.

- **Energy Independence** – Reducing reliance on imported electricity stabilizes prices and prevents dependence on out-of-state fossil fuel plants.

Without immediate investment in nuclear energy, Maryland risks power shortages, higher costs, and lost opportunities for a strong, skilled labor force.

Why Nuclear Should Be Included in the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)

Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) prioritizes clean energy, yet it excludes nuclear despite its zero-carbon footprint and sustainability. Senate Bill 716 corrects this by ensuring nuclear receives the same status as wind and solar, leading to:

- **Market-Driven Growth** – Integrating nuclear into the RPS attracts private investment rather than relying on subsidies.
- **Stable Revenue Mechanisms** – Certified Nuclear Renewable Energy Credits (NRECs) allow nuclear to compete fairly with other clean sources.
- **Lower Energy Costs** – Allowing utilities to purchase NRECs at competitive prices prevents excessive costs for consumers.

Passing SB 716 positions Maryland as a clean energy leader, prioritizing affordability, reliability, and sustainability.

SB 716 vs. HB 1035/SB 937: The Smarter Approach

While HB 1035 and SB 937 recognize nuclear's importance, their procurement-based approach relies on government-mandated surcharges rather than market competition.

Key Problems with HB 1035/SB 937:

- **Higher Consumer Costs** – HB 1035 shifts financial risk to ratepayers instead of leveraging competitive market forces.
- **Bureaucratic Delays** – Additional regional cost-sharing and federal negotiations slow nuclear expansion.
- **Lack of Long-Term Stability** – HB 1035's nuclear subsidy expires in 2030, creating uncertainty for investors and workers.

Labor and Economic Benefits of Nuclear Expansion

As a union that builds and maintains power plants and energy infrastructure, we recognize that long-term energy investment equals long-term job creation. Nuclear projects support:

- **Thousands of high-paying, union jobs** in construction, operations, and maintenance.
- **Apprenticeship and workforce training programs** to develop skilled tradespeople.
- **Collective bargaining protections and prevailing wages**, ensuring economic stability for workers and their families.

SB 716 ensures that new nuclear projects create thousands of family-sustaining, union jobs under the highest safety and quality standards.

Ensuring Long-Term Energy Security and Job Growth

- **HB 1035's nuclear funding model expires in 2030**, failing to provide sustainable investment.
- **SB 716 establishes a predictable revenue framework**, ensuring nuclear remains viable for decades.
- **SB 716 mandates labor protections**, including prevailing wages, registered apprenticeships, and community benefit agreements.

With HB 1035, workers and investors face uncertainty. With SB 716, Maryland secures clean energy leadership and a strong, skilled labor market.

Conclusion: Support SB 716 for Maryland's Clean Energy and Workforce Future

Maryland must act now to ensure a clean, reliable, and affordable energy future. The Decarbonization Infrastructure Solutions Act of 2025 offers a responsible path forward by:

- **Recognizing nuclear as a Tier 1 renewable energy source** within the RPS for fair competition and investment.
- **Delivering a market-driven, cost-effective solution** without relying on subsidies.
- **Creating thousands of high-paying, union jobs** while expanding Maryland's clean energy workforce.

For these reasons, UA Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 5 urges the Committee to support Senate Bill 716 and reject HB 1035/SB 937's flawed procurement model. Let's power Maryland's future the right way—by investing in nuclear energy, strengthening our skilled workforce, and securing our state's leadership in clean energy innovation.

Together, we can take a stand and build a better future for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or for further information.

Sincerely,



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

