



# MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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**SB 716 - Public Utilities - Nuclear Energy - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard and Procurement (Decarbonization Infrastructure Solutions Act of 2025)  
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
March 6, 2025**

**SUPPORT**

**Donna S. Edwards  
President**

**Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 716. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of Maryland's 300,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

Our state has set ambitious goals to expand clean energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. Unlike solar and wind, which are reliant on weather conditions, nuclear energy can provide consistent, 24/7, around-the-clock, predictable, base-load energy while effectively addressing Maryland's growing energy demands.

SB 716 establishes nuclear energy as a Tier 1 renewable source and includes it in the renewable portfolio standard (RPS). This legislation recognizes the critical role that nuclear energy plays in helping Maryland meet its aggressive greenhouse gas reduction targets while maintaining grid reliability, energy security, and job growth. Additionally, this bill outlines an approval process for nuclear energy projects in the state, encouraging the use of skilled labor and registered apprenticeships during the construction and manufacturing phases. This ensures that high-paying jobs in the nuclear industry are protected and new opportunities for skilled labor in the clean energy transition are created.

SB 716 strengthens Maryland's commitment to decarbonization, creates and maintains family-supporting jobs and ensures cost-effective energy investments. For these reasons, we urge a favorable vote on SB 716.