



## **SB 37**

### **Electric Companies - Regional Transmission Organizations - Report (Utility Transparency and Accountability Act) Position: Favorable**

Dear Chair Feldman and members of the committee:

My name is Ricarra Jones, and I am the Political Director with 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. We are the largest healthcare workers union in the nation, with 10,000 members in Maryland and Washington, DC.

SB37 will address important issues of transparency in decision making at our “PJM” regional transmission operator and ensure that ratepayers are not subsidizing utility costs for lobbying, advertising, and association dues that are not in the public interest, and which undermine Maryland’s climate goals. The bill will not prevent utilities from lobbying, advertising, and paying association dues. Rather, it will ensure shareholders, not ratepayers, bear those costs.

SB 37 will ensure decisions made that affect the cost of electricity in Maryland by passing along to ratepayer’s investments in new transmission, extra capacity for peak energy demand, and other costs are made with more transparency to the public. For those reasons, 1199 SEIU urges a favorable report on SB 37.

Sincerely,

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