

Journeyman Pipe Fitters and Apprentices



Local Union No. 602

8700 ASHWOOD DRIVE • 2ND FLOOR • CAPITOL HEIGHTS, MD 20743

TELEPHONE: (301) 333-2356 • FAX: (301) 333-1730

AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO

Testimony of Chris Madello

Business Manager / Financial Secretary Treasurer, UA Steamfitters Local 602

Before the House Economic Matters Committee and the Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee

In Opposition to HB 270 / SB 116 – Data Center Study Bill

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

On behalf of UA Steamfitters Local 602, our more than 6,031 Journeymen, Apprentices, and Helpers, and approximately 200 signatory contractors under the Mechanical Contractors Association of Metro Washington, I write today to express our strongest opposition to House Bill 270 and Senate Bill 116.

UA Steamfitters Local 602 represents highly skilled workers who are essential to the construction and maintenance of critical infrastructure, including data centers. While we recognize the importance of environmental and economic considerations, we believe that this bill imposes unnecessary delays and regulatory burdens that could stifle job creation and economic growth in our state.

The construction and operation of data centers, and specifically a hyperscale data center at Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plant, represents significant employment opportunities for union workers, offering family-sustaining wages and benefits. Our members are trained professionals who prioritize safety, efficiency, and sustainability in their work. Any prolonged study or additional regulatory hurdles could result in lost opportunities for our workforce and hinder Maryland's competitive edge in attracting data center investments.

Furthermore, Maryland has existing regulatory frameworks in place to address environmental and energy concerns. Adding another layer of analysis will only serve to delay projects that are already subject to rigorous review and compliance requirements. We urge the General Assembly to prioritize policies that promote workforce development and economic growth rather than imposing redundant studies that could deter investment.

In conclusion, UA Steamfitters Local 602 respectfully requests an unfavorable report on HB 270 / SB 116. Our members stand ready to support the responsible development of data centers in Maryland, ensuring that projects are completed safely and efficiently while providing economic benefits to local communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christopher M. Madello

Chris Madello

Business Manager / Financial Secretary Treasurer

UA Steamfitters Local 602

