



**Eastern Atlantic States**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

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TESTIMONY OF FRANK MAHONEY

DEPUTY POLITICAL DIRECTOR  
EASTERN ATLANTIC STATES REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

ON BEHALF OF THE EASTERN ATLANTIC STATES REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

HOUSE BILL 940 / SENATE BILL 596 – FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

BEFORE THE SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
AND THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Dear Chair Feldman, Chair Korman, and Honorable Members of the Committees:

My name is Frank Mahoney, Deputy Political Director of the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters. On behalf of the carpenters we represent across the Mid-Atlantic, I submit this testimony in support of House Bill 940 / Senate Bill 596, with amendments.

Large-scale industrial projects, particularly data centers, are a critical source of prevailing-wage construction work for our members and a key driver of apprenticeship opportunities. While we support the State's goal of ensuring electric grid reliability, as drafted, this bill risks chilling large-load development by introducing front-loaded requirements that create uncertainty early in the project lifecycle. When large projects do not move forward, union construction jobs do not materialize—and the career pathways created through Maryland's apprenticeship programs, particularly for locally hired workers, fail to materialize as well.

From the carpenters' perspective, early delays are especially impactful. Structural and enclosure work occurs at the front end of construction and sets the pace for all subsequent trades. Requirements that complicate financing or interconnection can prevent projects from reaching construction entirely.

Accordingly, we urge amendments that remove mandatory capacity procurement and demand-response participation as preconditions to interconnection, align compliance with existing PJM frameworks, and avoid duplicative requirements that undermine project timelines.

With these amendments, the bill can advance grid reliability while preserving Maryland's competitiveness for large-scale industrial development and union construction jobs.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a favorable report with amendments.

Frank Mahoney  
Deputy Political Director  
Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters