

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

AFFILIATED WITH:

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Baltimore Port Council
Baltimore Metro Council - AFL-CIO
Central MD Labor Council - AFL-CIO
Del-Mar-Va Labor Council - AFL-CIO
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Written Testimony of
Rico Albacarys, Assistant Business Agent, IBEW LOCAL 24
Before the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee On
SB 341 Public Utilities - Solar Energy Generating Systems and Solar Renewable Energy
Credits (Affordable Solar Act)

Favorable

February 17, 2026

Chairman Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Committee Members,

My name is Rico Albacarys, and I am a member and employee of IBEW Local 24, writing in support of the Affordable Solar Act. This legislation will expand solar energy in Maryland while delivering real benefits for working families.

As Maryland's solar industry grows, so will job opportunities in the clean energy economy. Solar projects require skilled tradespeople to build, interconnect, and maintain these systems safely and reliably. When done right, this work supports family-sustaining careers, registered apprenticeship programs, and long-term job growth across the state. By tying solar expansion to responsible development practices, we can ensure that the clean energy transition creates high-quality, local jobs rather than a race to the bottom.

Investing in our local workforce is just as important as investing in clean energy generation. The Affordable Solar Act moves Maryland toward that balanced approach by promoting solar growth in a way that creates middle class jobs and protects ratepayers.

We urge the Committee to support SB 341 as a forward-looking policy that strengthens our clean energy future while expanding economic opportunity for Maryland workers. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rico Albacarys
Assistant Business Agent
IBEW Local 24