

PLUMBERS AND STEAMFITTERS

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**TESTIMONY OF CHRIS ANDERSON, BUSINESS AGENT
PLUMBERS AND STEAMFITTERS LOCAL 486**

IN SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

**HOUSE BILL 940 / SENATE BILL 596 – LARGE LOAD CUSTOMERS – ELECTRIC
SYSTEM INTERCONNECTION AND DEMAND RESPONSE PROGRAM**

**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:

On behalf of UA Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486, I respectfully submit this testimony in support of House Bill 940 / Senate Bill 596, with amendments.

UA Local 486 represents union plumbers and steamfitters who perform complex mechanical and process piping work on large commercial and industrial projects throughout the Baltimore region and across Maryland. Large-load facilities—including data centers, advanced manufacturing sites, and industrial campuses—are critical sources of prevailing-wage construction work for our members and are central to continued economic growth in urban and industrial corridors.

We support responsible grid planning and recognize the State’s interest in addressing increasing electric demand. However, as currently drafted, House Bill 940 risks chilling large-load industrial development in Maryland by introducing uncertainty at the earliest stages of project planning and interconnection. Developers evaluating Maryland sites must be able to rely on clear, predictable regulatory frameworks that align with regional market practices; when that certainty is lacking, projects are often delayed or redirected to competing jurisdictions.

When large-scale construction projects do not move forward, union construction jobs do not materialize—and the career pathways created through Maryland’s high-caliber, state-registered apprenticeship programs, particularly for locally hired workers, fail to materialize as well.

From Local 486’s perspective, the bill’s mandatory capacity procurement requirements and undefined clean-energy obligations are especially problematic for industrial and process-driven facilities. These projects frequently rely on phased development, complex sequencing, and significant upfront capital commitments. Requiring customers to resolve energy procurement and compliance obligations as a precondition to interconnection can disrupt financing, delay construction start dates, and undermine project feasibility.

Local 486 is also concerned that the bill creates Maryland-specific demand response requirements that may duplicate or conflict with existing PJM programs already relied upon by large-load customers. Adding overlapping compliance regimes increases cost and operational complexity without necessarily improving grid reliability outcomes.

Accordingly, UA Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486 urges amendments to House Bill 940 / Senate Bill 596 that:

- Remove mandatory capacity procurement and demand response participation as prerequisites to interconnection;
- Clearly define eligible compliance resources and allow flexibility through established PJM-qualified mechanisms;
- Avoid duplicative regulatory requirements that introduce uncertainty into project financing and construction schedules; and
- Preserve Maryland's competitiveness for large-scale industrial development that supports prevailing-wage construction and long-term workforce training.

With these amendments, the bill can advance grid reliability while continuing to attract the types of large-load projects that sustain union jobs, support apprenticeship programs, and strengthen Maryland's industrial economy.

For these reasons, UA Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486 respectfully requests a favorable report with amendments.

Sincerely,



Chris Anderson
Business Agent
UA Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486