

# Journeyman Pipe Fitters and Apprentices



## Local Union No. 602

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AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO

TESTIMONY OF SIDNEY BONILLA, BUSINESS MANAGER  
STEAMFITTERS LOCAL 602  
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

On behalf of UA Steamfitters Local 602, I respectfully submit this testimony in support of House Bill 940 / Senate Bill 596, with amendments.

UA Steamfitters Local 602 represents highly skilled union steamfitters who construct and maintain complex piping systems serving mission-critical facilities, including data centers, advanced manufacturing plants, and other large-load industrial users. These facilities depend on continuous, reliable operations and are typically built through multi-year construction schedules requiring significant upfront investment and long-term planning certainty.

We support policies that promote grid reliability and responsible system planning. However, as currently drafted, House Bill 940 risks chilling large-load industrial development in Maryland by introducing regulatory and financial uncertainty at the earliest stages of project development. Data center developers and other large-load customers evaluate jurisdictions based on clarity, predictability, and alignment with regional market structures. When those elements are lacking, projects are delayed, re-scoped, or relocated to competing states.

When large-scale construction projects do not proceed, 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 the perspective of the steamfitting trades, the bill’s mandatory capacity procurement requirements and undefined clean-energy obligations present particular challenges. These provisions require customers to resolve complex energy procurement and compliance questions before construction can begin, even though such matters are typically addressed in parallel with — not as a prerequisite to — project delivery. This misalignment can delay project financing and disrupt carefully sequenced construction schedules.

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UA Steamfitters Local 602 is also concerned that the bill establishes a Maryland-specific demand response framework that may duplicate or conflict with existing PJM programs in which many large-load facilities already participate. Layering additional state-level requirements increases compliance complexity without necessarily improving grid reliability outcomes.

Accordingly, UA Steamfitters Local 602 urges amendments to House Bill 940 / Senate Bill 596 that:

- Remove mandatory capacity procurement and demand response participation as preconditions to interconnection;
- Clarify eligible compliance options and permit flexibility through established PJM-qualified resources;
- Avoid duplicative regulatory frameworks that create uncertainty for project financing and construction planning; and
- Preserve Maryland's competitiveness for large-load industrial facilities that support prevailing-wage construction and long-term workforce development.

With these amendments, House Bill 940 / Senate Bill 596 can advance grid reliability while ensuring Maryland remains an attractive location for large-scale industrial projects that sustain union jobs and robust apprenticeship pipelines.

For these reasons, UA Steamfitters Local 602 respectfully requests a favorable report with amendments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sidney Bonilla". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "S" and a horizontal line at the end.

Sidney Bonilla  
Business Manager / Financial Secretary-Treasurer  
UA Steamfitters Local 602