



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Local Union 1900
1400 Mercantile Lane, Suite 256
Largo, Maryland 20774



March 10, 2026

IBEW Local 1900 – Testimony

Position: SUPPORT

Chair Korman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jerry R. Williford Jr., President, Business Manager, and Financial Secretary of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1900. IBEW Local 1900 represents approximately 1,200 skilled utility workers across Maryland, including employees who operate, maintain, and support the electric and gas systems that keep our communities powered every day. For our members, long-term energy supply planning and infrastructure investment are essential. Predictable investment creates stable project pipelines, supports apprenticeship and workforce development programs, and sustains family-supporting union careers. Reliable energy investment strengthens Maryland's electric grid and provides economic stability for working families across the state.

We support HB 1561, the Affordable Energy Act, because reliability and affordability are inseparable, and right now Maryland is headed toward a supply shortfall that threatens both.

For IBEW Local 1900 members and their families, rising energy bills are not an abstract issue. Higher and more volatile power costs affect household budgets and create uncertainty for the very workers responsible for keeping the system running. They also make it harder for employers and public institutions to plan, invest, and operate reliably.

HB 1561 is a responsible step forward to meaningfully address increased supply prices and insufficient generation because it creates opportunity for necessary investment in energy generation in an accountable and transparent way.

HB 1561 empowers the PSC to require a resource adequacy plan when needed and enables investor-owned utilities, under Commission oversight, to develop or own generation and front-of-the-meter storage under defined circumstances.

This is why IBEW Local 1900 supports HB 1561: it restores clear accountability for getting resources built.

From a workforce standpoint, HB 1561 also supports the kind of predictable, long-term investment that allows utilities and contractors to plan for training, staffing, and safety. When projects are sporadic or uncertain, it's harder to sustain apprenticeship pipelines and maintain the skilled workforce that Maryland depends on for grid reliability. When investment is planned and accountable, it strengthens careers that let working families stay in Maryland and thrive.

Through passage of this legislation, Maryland's commitment to building infrastructure and developing talent provides IBEW Local 1900 with reassurance that future demand will be met safely and dependably.

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For these reasons, I respectfully ask for a favorable report on HB 1561. Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jerry R. Williford Jr." with a stylized, cursive script.

Jerry R. Williford Jr.

President, Business Manager, Financial Secretary

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