

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

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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 805 Nuclear Energy Development Task Force

Support

February 28, 2024

Chairman Feldman and Committee Members,

My name is Rico Albacarys and I am a member and employee of IBEW Local 24 in Baltimore. I am writing to express our **support** for **Senate Bill 805**, the Nuclear Energy Development Task Force, and its pivotal role in advancing Maryland's energy landscape towards sustainability.

Nuclear power is a proven technology capable of generating significant amounts of electricity with minimal greenhouse gas emissions. SB 805 rightly establishes a task force to study and recommend strategies for deploying nuclear power generation.

SB 805 recognizes the potential of newer technologies like Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) in enhancing the cost-effectiveness and safety of nuclear power. SMRs offer scalability, flexibility, and improved economics compared to traditional nuclear reactors, making them a promising avenue for bolstering our energy infrastructure while meeting emission reduction goals.

This commission would play a vital role in addressing regulatory, financial, and social barriers to nuclear power deployment while ensuring equitable access to renewable energy and fostering job creation with family-sustaining wages. We ask you to give a **favorable** report to **Senate Bill 805** and seize this opportunity to chart a path towards a sustainable energy future for Maryland.

Sincerely,

Rico Albacarys
Assistant Business Agent IBEW Local 24