



# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

Local 99, 99-A, 99-C, 99-O

AFFILIATED WITH THE AFL-CIO

Engineer Center

9315 Largo Drive West, Suite 200, Upper Marlboro, MD 20774

(202) 337-0099

Donald P. Havard  
*Business Manager*

Warren L. Watt  
*President*

Frank M. Brown, Jr.  
*Vice President*

Raymond D. Stack  
*Treasurer*

Mark P. Sexton  
*Recording Corresponding  
Secretary*

Frank C. Barile  
*Financial Secretary*

## TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 163 Right to Work February 4, 2020

The Honorable Dereck Davis  
Chairman, House Economic Matters Committee

Dear Chairman Davis and the entire Committee:

My name Donald Havard and I am the Business Manager of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 99. Our Union represents over 3000 workers throughout the Washington Metropolitan Area. Our members are skilled tradesmen who work in Hotels, Office Buildings, Hospitals and many Government Sites. In addition, we conduct a 4 year apprenticeship program that equips members with the skills they will need to make an excellent living and obtain an Engineers License. Our program is offered free of charge to the students and is funded by our joint employers.

The International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 99's entire membership wishes to make our fierce opposition against House Bill 163, the so called "Right to Work" bill.

A few weeks ago, we like most Americans, took part in a holiday to Honor the Legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. King was always a champion of Organized Labor, made his feeling of "Right to Work known in 1961 and although we are 59 years removed from the date, his sentiments are still poignant and indeed are still entirely relevant. Dr. King said **"In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, such as 'right to work.' It is a law to rob us of our civil rights and job rights. Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining by which unions have improved wages and working conditions of everyone...Wherever these laws have been passed, wages are lower, job opportunities are fewer and there are no civil rights. We do not intend to let them do this to us. We demand this fraud be stopped. Our weapon is our vote."** I will make no effort to improve upon the words of the heroic Dr. King, I would however like to associate myself with his remarks. "Right to Work" laws are about hampering union activity and are meant to rob working families of the voice they so dearly need.

We once again state our vigorous opposition to this bill and ask each and every member of this committee to do the right thing and vote no. In the final analysis, you have the opportunity to stand with the legendary Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King or stand with the shadowy backers of a bill meant to disenfranchise workers, but you do not have the opportunity to stand with both.

Sincerely,

Donald P. Havard  
IUOE Local 99 Business Manager