



District Council No. 51
4700 Boston Way
Lanham, MD 20706
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ONE VOICE

Representing:
Protective and Decorative
Coatings Applicators
Painters
Decorators
Wall Coverers
Drywall Finishers
Glaziers
Architectural Metal Workers
Glass Workers
Civil Service Workers
Shipyard Workers
Maintenance Workers
Metal Polishers
Metalizers
Bridge Painters
Riggers
Tank Painters
Marine Painters
Containment Workers
Lead Abatement Workers
Sand Blasters
Water Blasters
Sign Painters
Paint Makers

ONE AGENDA

Affiliated Local Unions
Local Union 1
Local Union 368
Local Union 474
Local Union 890
Local Union 963
Local Union 1100
Local Union 1846
Local Union 1937
Local Union 1997

Over 100 Years Serving
Maryland
Virginia
Washington, DC

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PAINTERS AND ALLIED TRADES, AFL-CIO DISTRICT COUNCIL NO. 51

February 10, 2020

House of Delegates Economic Matters Committee:

Dereck E. Davis, Chair
Kathleen M. Dumais, Vice Chair
House Office Building, Room 231
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Honorable Members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

I am Roxana Mejia, Director of Government Affairs of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 51 covering the Maryland, Virginia and District of Columbia jurisdictions. I represent over 2,000 members in the finishing trades of the construction industry.

I want to thank the Committee Members for taking the time to read our SUPPORT to HB 582-Procurement Prevailing Wage Applicability.

I write to you today to urge you to vote in support of HB 582. Maryland has the highest prevailing wage threshold in the Nation. Maryland's current monetary threshold of \$500,000.00, the highest prevailing wage threshold of any State and well above the Federal Davis-Bacon threshold of \$2000.00, is then coupled with a 50% of State funding requirement creating a threshold that can be in the millions of dollars. Eliminating the percentage requirement will create a more level playing field and competitive bid process for contractors when requests for proposals are issued by the Maryland Board of Public Works. Majority of our signatory contractors are small businesses and they deserve the opportunity to be competitive on these projects. Prevailing wage requires contractors to increase local hires with registered apprentices and journeyworkers and compensate them with fair wages and fringe benefits. Our signatory Contractors pay this wages and benefits, provide health care and pension for them and their families. In addition, we participate in a helmets to hard hats that trains veterans in our industries to work in local construction projects. They are part of the Joint Apprenticeship Training Council with labor and management funding our apprenticeship programs at no cost to our apprentices and setting the gold standard for apprenticeship programs throughout the State. Prevailing wages used for State funded projects provide an influx of money into local communities and into the more rural parts of MD. Tax payer dollars need to be used to maintain the economic standard in the communities where State funded projects are being constructed. Eliminating the percentage will revitalize our local economy and provide workers and contractors the opportunity to work near their home.

Please vote favorably on bill HB 582.

Thank you

Roxana Mejia
Director of Government Affairs
IUPAT DC 51

