



Eastern Atlantic States

REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

March 3, 2020

Chairman Dereck Davis
Economic Matters Committee
House of Delegates

Chairman Davis, Vice-Chair Dumais and distinguished Committee Members,

On behalf of the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters, we proudly SUPPORT HB 1097 - Maryland Worker Wage Protection Act. Wage theft in Maryland in an epidemic - 2017 study found 580,000 workers are cheated out of \$875 million annually. While \$1,500 may seem like a small amount of money to people in this room, that is meals, transit passes, and health coverage all put in jeopardy for our most vulnerable employees. The problem is even more dramatic in the trades as fly-by-night and insolvent subcontractors cannot be traced after jobs are completed so there is little recourse for wage theft.

The Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters supports HB 1097 as it closes three key loopholes:

- Protects employees from retaliation so that victims of wage theft can enforce their right to be paid without fear of being fired, losing hours, or being threatened.
- Promotes transparency by requiring that paystubs contain information showing how pay was calculated, such as hours worked, pay rate, and overtime.
- Clarifies that employees are broadly protected by wage laws.

We thank the committee for its consideration of HB 1097 and urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Mungu Sanchez
Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters