

CWA MARYLAND STATE COUNCIL
"EFFECTING CHANGE THROUGH POLITICAL ACTION"

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 434
Heat Stress Standards
February 20, 2020

To: Hon. Delores Kelley, Chair, and members of the Senate Finance Committee

From: Shannon Opfer, President CWA Maryland State Council, President CWA Local 2107

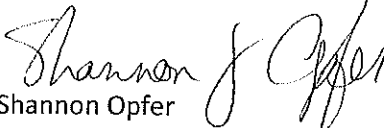
Chair Kelley and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Senate Bill 434 has the potential to help CWA members across the state. Our members spend every day in and out of attics, cell sites, phone rooms, and outside. Maryland typically has around 30 days with a heat index of 90 degrees Fahrenheit or more every year. Heat related deaths are increasing every year. When a day is over 90 degrees, the inside of an attic or cell site can be well over 100 degrees. Federally OSHA has no regulations to require employers protect their employees from heat stress.

Maryland can direct Maryland OSHA to promulgate a heat stress rule, requiring heat stress plans on the worksite. This can include training, breaks, providing water, monitoring worker exposure to heat, and maintaining record on heat injuries and precautions taken to prevent them.

For all these reasons, CWA is IN SUPPORT of SB 434

Thank you,


Shannon Opfer

President CWA MD State Council
President CWA Local 2107