



CWA MARYLAND STATE COUNCIL
“EFFECTING CHANGE THROUGH POLITICAL ACTION”

Testimony in Support of HJ7

2026 FIFA WORLD CUP- PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

February 24, 2020

To: Hon. Anne Healey, Chair, and members of the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee

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

Delegate Healey and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for HJ7, 2026 FIFA World Cup, Protection of Human Rights. Passing this joint resolution will give Maryland a better chance of hosting the World Cup in 2026. FIFA World Cup is the largest sporting event in the world, and this resolution will show Maryland's commitment to human rights and labor rights.

FIFA has worked with organizations for labor rights and human rights to adopt the “Proposal for a United Human Rights Strategy” for the 2026 games. This agreement will establish respect for human rights through the bidding process. Our state in conjunction with Washington D.C. will receive a higher priority in the bidding process if we can demonstrate adherence to these human right values in our proposal bid.

Hosting cities can expect between \$300-\$500 million in economic activity. We are in strong contention to be that host city. With all the stadiums available, Maryland could be the recipient of this economic windfall. Maryland has a strong history of respecting human rights. Let us further this by passing this resolution and bringing the 2026 here to Maryland.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shannon Opfer', is written over a horizontal line.

Shannon Opfer
President MD CWA State Council
President CWA Local 2107