



Founded 1889

PLUMBERS AND STEAMFITTERS

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Maryland House of Delegates – Economic Matters Committee

TO: Delegate Dereck E. Davis, Chair; Delegate Kathleen M. Dumais, Vice Chair; and Members of the Economic Matters Committee.

FROM: Gerald Jackson, Assistant Business Manager – Plumbers & Steamfitter's UA Local 486

SUPPORT HB 037 – PROCUREMENT PREVAILING WAGE APPLICABILITY

On behalf of the Plumbers & Steamfitter's Local Union 486 and its' 2500 members and over 100 Contractors who serve the Plumbing, HVAC and Process Piping needs for Western Maryland and the Eastern Shore, I ask that you **SUPPORT HB 037**.

Prevailing Wage ends the race to the bottom on wages for public construction projects. It ensures that all contractors bidding for a public works project have to pay the same wages and benefits to win the bid. It also gives small and midsized contractors the opportunity to bid on public works projects.

At the moment Maryland has one of, if not the highest thresholds for prevailing wage in the country. This extremely high threshold limits the number of projects done under prevailing wage rates, which allows low road contractors, whose wage theft practices cost the state and local governments tax dollars each year, to win bids that should be going to small or medium sized contractors that cannot compete otherwise for public works projects. Using these small to medium sized contractors you help with local workforce development by using contractors who participate in apprenticeship programs that are registered with the state and federal government and they produce some of the best skilled local craftsmen in the state.

For the reasons listed above, I ask that you SUPPORT HB 037 with a favorable report.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gerald Jackson

Assistant Business Manager

Plumbers & Steamfitter's Local Union 486