

PLUMBERS AND STEAMFITTERS UA LOCAL UNION 486

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Founded 1889

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Senate Finance Committee

To: Chair- Honorable Delores Kelley Vice Chair – Brian Feldman

SENATE BILL 671 – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-ELIGIBILITY FOR STATE JOB CREATION INCENTIVES

Position: Support

Madam Chair and Committee Members:

My name is Gerald Jackson, I am the Secretary-Treasurer for the Maryland State & D.C. AFL-CIO and I am also a 42 year member of the Steamfitters & Plumbers Local Union 486 of which I am the Assistant Business Manager.

I'm submitting this testimony in support of SB 671 for the following reason:

When taxpayer dollars are being used to incentivize businesses for the purposes of job creation, labor is 100% in favor of this practice. We want Maryland to have the ability to attract businesses that are willing to pay Life –Sustaining Wages and Benefits. This bill applies Labor/Job standards to all the tax credits that taxpayers allocate to businesses to create jobs in Maryland for hopefully state residents only. If a business is looking to be supplemented by taxpayer's dollars for job creation, or be a candidate for a tax deferred deduction for job creation, then the job must, pay at least 150% of the state minimum wage(or prevailing wage if it's a covered craft, be located in Maryland, provide career advancement training, guarantee the right to collectively bargain, be covered by Unemployment Insurance and Worker's Compensation, offer employer provided health insurance, have retirement benefits and provide fair scheduling.

For these reason I'm asking for a favorable report for SB 671.

Respectfully.

Gerald W. Jackson, Secretary-Treasurer MD. STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO