

March 30, 2023

The Honorable CT Wilson, Chair
The Honorable Brian Crosby, Vice Chair
House Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building Room 231
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

SB 170 – Energy Generation Projects – Required Labor Standards
Testimony of Jayson Williams, Mayson-Dixon Properties & Development
Position – Favorable

Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the Committee:

It is an honor to submit testimony on SB 170. I also thank Senator Feldman for sponsoring this bill.

My name is Jayson Williams. I am the president and CEO of Modern Builders, a subsidiary of Mayson-Dixon Companies. We are a fast-growing minority-owned general contractor and subcontractor located in Baltimore City MD. We pride ourselves in delivering our projects on time and on budget.

To-date, Modern Builders & Mayson Dixon Companies have specialized in construction projects that have helped stabilize and grow urban communities. We are proud to be a small, minority-owned business that helps create middle-class construction jobs for Maryland residents.

In addition, Mayson-Dixon Companies' subsidiary MD Strategic Consulting was retained in 2021 by a group of solar companies to create Renewables Forward. This initiative is focused on inspiring greater diversity, equity, and inclusion within the clean energy industry from the top down. In 2022 Mayson Dixon Companies created a Joint Development Agreement with CI Renewables to serve as their minority owned solar development partner.

From a contractors' perspective, prevailing wage is very helpful because it levels the playing field for reputable, high road contractors like Modern Builders. Prevailing wage prevents low-road contractors from undercutting high-road contractors committed to paying decent wages and benefits. Prevailing wage signals to high-road companies that they can compete and win contracts. Prevailing wage also helps companies retain a quality workforce, which in turn has a positive impact on productivity.

And from MD Strategic Consulting's involvement in establishing Renewables Forward and Mayson Dixon Companies JDA with , the construction of energy generation projects in particular can benefit from labor standards like prevailing wage. These projects are oftentimes built by a traveling out-of-state workforce employed as 1099 independent contractors.

For these reasons, I urge you to issue a favorable report on this bill.

Jayson Williams
Mayson Dixon Companies, CEO