



House Economic Matters Committee

To: Delegate CT Wilson, Chair; Delegate Brian Crosby Vice-Chair; and Members of the Committee.
From: Jason Ascher, Political Director, Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association.

SUPPORT - HB 61 – Utility Contractors – Employment and Licensure – Requirements and Application

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association and our 10,000+ United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitter members across Maryland, I ask you to **SUPPORT HB 61**.

Construction projects done for the public good, regardless of if they are taxpayer-funded, should be required to meet a high standard. The companies hired to build these projects should use the best-trained workers available and not be undercutting area wages. Utility work is undoubtedly for the public good. Without these projects' things like water, sewers, and electricity would not be able to get to the citizens of a community. These very citizens are the ratepayers to the utility company and the county and state taxpayers. HB 61 will ensure that utility companies pay the local area prevailing wage rate, which will ensure they are not undercutting the market rate in the area. It also requires the use of an apprenticeship program registered with the state or federal government, as well as a series of local and diversity hire requirements which will help get that best-trained workforce while keeping local dollars in the community.

For these reasons, I ask that you **SUPPORT HB 61**.

Sincerely,

Jason Ascher
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