



# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PAINTERS AND ALLIED TRADES, AFL-CIO DISTRICT COUNCIL NO. 51

**District Council No. 51**  
4700 Boston Way  
Lanham, MD 20706  
(301) 918-0182  
(301) 918-3177 Fax

January 29, 2024

## ONE VOICE

Representing:  
Protective and Decorative  
Coatings Applicators  
Painters  
Decorators  
Wall Coverers  
Drywall Finishers  
Glaziers  
Architectural Metal Workers  
Glass Workers  
Civil Service Workers  
Shipyards Workers  
Maintenance Workers  
Metal Polishers  
Metalizers  
Bridge Painters  
Riggers  
Tank Painters  
Marine Painters  
Containment Workers  
Lead Abatement Workers  
Sand Blasters  
Water Blasters  
Sign Painters  
Paint Makers

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of IUPAT DC51 in support of SB38 and HB385. IUPAT DC51 represents a diverse group of workers in Maryland, including painters, drywall finishers, glaziers, and allied trades. Our one of many objectives is to expose bad contractors who utilize bad faith practices for personal gain, often targeting undocumented communities, with these illegal schemes ultimately damaging the labor industry. Through our worker outreach initiatives, we've encountered a significant number of workers in Maryland who are affected by wage theft.

Wage theft is a pervasive problem for workers within construction industries. Many of them receive pay statements that lack crucial information such as their pay rates, hours of work, deductions, and even the dates of the pay period. Unlike many other states, Maryland does not provide any mechanism for workers to address this issue; understanding that with the absence of essential information on paystubs, in the end, serves as a tool to conceal wage theft.

## ONE AGENDA

Affiliated Local Unions  
Local Union 1  
Local Union 368  
Local Union 474  
Local Union 890  
Local Union 963  
Local Union 1100  
Local Union 1846  
Local Union 1937  
Local Union 1997  
Local Union 2351

This year, we are starting to highlight an active federal investigation that took place in Baltimore County, including another case that exemplifies the issues we are facing: Green Lime Cleaning LLC, a residential and commercial cleaning business operating in Baltimore, Maryland, consisting of nine employees who collectively decided to fight for their rights; a Wage and Hour Division Case #1980633, with total back wages owed as of today in the amount of \$6,477.89, with two additional workers waiting to be contacted. This is just a couple of cases out of many that the DC51 Organizing Department is currently assisting on. It is important to note that both the worker and assigned investigator, as well as unions, often find it challenging to make an accurate estimate of the proper back-owed wages.

Without basic details about rates, hours, and dates, workers have no means to verify if they were paid correctly. This problem persists for many, resulting in wage theft that hinders their ability to provide a middle-class life for themselves and their families. At various times, non-union employees have sought our guidance in determining their proper wages because their pay stubs are unclear. This demonstrates the ongoing problems in this area and the urgent need for stronger worker protection.

**Over 100 Years Serving**  
Maryland  
Virginia  
Washington, DC



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The proposed bill offers a simple and common-sense solution to address the problem of employers hiding wage theft through confusing pay statements. With most employers currently including the basic information on pay statements, it seems to be in the reasonable capacity of all employers to provide the same level of transparency. Therefore, on behalf of IUPAT DC51 and the nine employees of Green Lime Cleaning LLC, we strongly urge you to support SB38 and HB385, that provides strong and affective language to help mitigate the issue of wage theft under the proposed bill, protecting the rights and livelihoods of workers in Maryland, including the members of IUPAT DC51.

Sincerely,

Herbert Zaldivar  
Business Development Director  
IUPAT DC 51