



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 682-ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS- LABOR & MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE REQUIREMENTS February 15, 2024

TO: Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby and members of the House Economic Matters Committee
FROM: Tom Clark, Political Director, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, members of the House Economic Matters Committee, please join me in **support of HB 682**, a bill that sets the tone for combatting wage theft, avoiding unscrupulous contractors, and encouraging the use of minority owned businesses. HB 682 lays the groundwork for business success and labor harmony.

HB 682 begins with requirements and expectations from the Developer, and asks the same from Contractors, Subcontractors, and the workforce itself. This legislation requires the use of registered apprenticeship programs: a perfect mix of classroom hours and on the job training. Registered apprenticeship programs teach young people, they do not exploit them. HB 682 also makes contractors subject to reporting and compliance requirements.

What separates this legislation from others, that include labor standards, is the setting of reasonable goals to include Minority Businesses. Small, Minority and Woman owned Businesses will thrive because of HB 682. In my trade, Electrical Construction, HB 682 could start new businesses as much as it helps existing ones. Imagine a young person growing up in Prince Georges County, completing our apprenticeship in Lanham, working on a project in Calvert County, becoming a journeyman and owning a Business that thrives for the entrepreneur as well as the people it employs. What a great story, what a great Bill. Please join my enthusiasm and join my **support of HB 682**. Thank you!

