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February 15, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair
The Honorable Regina Boyce, Vice Chair
House Environmental and Transportation Committee
House Office Building - Room 251
Annapolis, MD 21401

Written Testimony of Marshall Brown HB 513 - Maryland Road Worker Protection Act Position: Support

Thank you Chair Marc Korman and Vice Chair Boyce for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 513.

My name is Marshall Brown, Director of the Laborers-Employers Cooperation Education and Trust (LECET) in the Mid-Atlantic Region. LECET is a joint labor-management association in the construction industry and affiliated with Laborers International Union of North America, or LIUNA for short. LECET works tirelessly alongside LIUNA signatory contractors to address critical issues affecting our workforce, with safety being a top priority.

LECET is in strong support of HB 513 and its importance in safeguarding the lives of workers. High speed work zones pose a serious threat, as evidenced by the recent tragic loss of six individuals on I-695. Unfortunately, this incident represents merely one instance of the type of tragedies that can occur in such environments. Enhanced safety measures can save lives and make sure that the men and women working in these types of conditions get back to their families each and every night.

Drivers frequently disregard posted speed limits in work zones, often with little consideration for the safety of road workers. HB 513 aims to enhance existing regulations through the following measures:

1. Elevating speed fines from \$40 to \$290 for the initial two offenses, and \$1,000 for a third offense, aligning with fines imposed during live officer stops for similar offenses.
2. Permitting the use of manned or unmanned speed control systems.
3. Allowing immediate citation of drivers for violations in work zones.
4. Removing the prohibition on issuing citations during a 30-day "warning period."

Speed control systems are proven to help reduce accidents and fatalities in our work zones and that is why LECET urges the committee to support HB 513 and save lives with this vital legislation.

On behalf of LECET, LIUNA and its signatory contractors, I urge the committee to pass HB 513 and take action to enhance safety measures in work zones.

YOUR WORKFORCE SOLUTION