



Electrical Workers
Insulators
Boilermakers
United Association
Plumbers & Gas Fitters
Sprinkler Fitters
Steam Fitters
Roofers
Cement Masons
Teamsters
Laborers
Bricklayers
Ironworkers
Sheet Metal Workers
Elevator Constructors
Painters
Operating Engineers
Carpenters

March 1, 2024

The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair
The Honorable Jheanelle Wilkins, Vice Chair
House Ways and Means Committee
House Office Building - Room 131
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**SUBJECT: HB 903 - Sales and Use Tax Exemption – Qualified Data Center
Personal Property Eligibility**

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you holding the February 29, 2024 hearing on HB 905. I apologize for missing the deadline for submitting testimony in support of this bill.

The Baltimore-DC Building Trades (BDCBT) represents 28 construction trade unions across Maryland, Northern Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Combined, our trade unions represent more than 30,000 skilled craft professionals in the construction industry.

The BDCBT greatly appreciates Del. Lorig Charkoudian for introducing HB 905. The BDCBT strongly supports this bill because it requires the prevailing wage to be paid on the construction of data centers receiving sales and use tax exemptions.

It is good public policy to ensure that construction projects receiving state subsidies like tax exemptions create quality jobs and employment opportunities for residents. The best way to do this is by requiring prevailing wage and other types of labor standards, including apprenticeships, on subsidized projects. Prevailing wage removes downward pressure on wages and incentivizes contractors to invest in a pipeline of skilled labor through apprenticeships.

BDCBT urges the committee to issue a favorable report on HB 905.

Sincerely,
Greg Akerman
President

Value on Display... Everyday.

