



The Voice of Merit Construction

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TO: FINANCE COMMITTEE

FROM: ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS

RE: H.B. 850 – WORKGROUP ON THE CREATION OF A DATA DASHBOARD FOR PUBLIC WORK CONTRACTS AND APPRENTICES – ESTABLISHMENT

POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT

The Associated Builders and Contractors of Maryland (ABC), respectfully request an amendment to H.B. 850. While we fully support the intent of this bill to create a publicly accessible data dashboard for public work contracts and apprentices, we believe that the current composition of the workgroup could be significantly improved by including representation from non-union organizations.

H.B. 850, as written, specifies that the workgroup shall include representatives from the Baltimore-DC Building Trades Council, the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association, and Steamfitters Union Local 602. While these organizations offer valuable perspectives, the bill currently excludes non-union organizations that also contribute significantly to public work contracts and apprenticeship programs within the state.

We believe that the workgroup's recommendations will be more comprehensive and balanced if it includes representatives from organizations that operate outside of the traditional union framework. Both the Associated Builders and Contractors of Maryland and the Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) Chesapeake have unique insights into apprenticeship programs, workforce development, and the challenges faced by contractors in the public sector. In addition, we support the inclusion of the Maryland Minority Contractors Association (MMCA) in the workgroup. Their inclusion would ensure that the data dashboard accurately reflects the diverse landscape of public work contracts in Maryland.

With that said, we propose the following amendment to Section (b) of H.B. 850:

On Page 2, after line 23, insert:

- (iv) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS OF MARYLAND (ABC);
- (v) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INDEPENDENT ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS (IEC) CHESAPEAKE;
- (vi) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND MINORITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION (MMCA)

This amendment would ensure that the workgroup benefits from a wider range of expertise and perspectives, leading to a more robust and effective data dashboard.

On behalf of the over 1,500 ABC members in Maryland, we respectfully request a favorable with amendment report on H.B. 850.

Marcus Jackson, Director of
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