

Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

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Finance Committee

To: Senator Pam Beidle, Chair; Senator Antonio Hayes, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee
From: Jason Ascher, Political Director, Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association.

SUPPORT HB 850 – Procurement – Public Work Contracts – Data Dashboard (Maryland Public Workers and Apprenticeship Transparency Act)

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association and our five United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters Locals, which represent 10,000+ Plumbers, Steamfitter, Welders, HVAC Techs, and Sprinkler Fitters across Maryland, I ask you to **SUPPORT HB 850**.

When spending taxpayer dollars, it is essential to make sure it's clear how the money is being spent and where. Ensuring that the public can easily see where the money is going and that contractors hired by the state is following all the laws governing how the money is spent. In terms of public construction that means prevailing wage projects.

HB 850 will create a public visual database of all prevailing wage project and show what contractors are on the construction site, how many workers in each craft they have, and how much they are paying them in wages and benefits. With wage theft and misclassification being one of the biggest problems in the construction industry this website will help show the public it is not happening on public construction projects. It will also show how many workers are apprentices and what programs they are training with.

Finding a way to fund the creation of these databases is vital to the public construction industry transparency and maintaining public trust.

For the reasons previously mentioned, I ask you to **SUPPORT HB 850**.

Sincerely,

Jason Ascher
Political Director
Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

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