



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

GEORGE C. HOGAN: Business Manager • THOMAS C. MYERS: President • RICHARD D. WILKINSON: Vice President
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January 31, 2020

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 163

RIGHT TO WORK

FEBRUARY 4, 2020

To: **Honorable Dereck Davis, Chair, and members of the House Economic Matters Committee**

From: **George Hogan, Business Manager, IBEW Local Union No. 26**

Chairman Davis and distinguished members of the committee, as Business Manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union No. 26, I am writing this letter to ask you to oppose the anti-worker bill, HB 163. As a leader of over 5000 Maryland electricians, I implore you to vote against this legislation that will take away the rights of not only these 5000 constituents, but thousands more Marylanders. I urge you to stand up for the working men and women of our state and oppose this harmful legislation.

Any bill that uses the term "right to work" is an anti-employee bill in disguise, seeking to take away representation of the sons and daughters of this proud state. This was the origin of "right to work" some 80 years ago when it was proposed by segregationist Vance Muse. Today, some legislators are seeking to divide and conquer through a bill specifically designed to separate workers and those that negotiate for them, if passed such a bill will eat away at Marylanders pay, benefits, and retirement. This point is proven by those current "right to work" states that are all on the bottom of the list when it comes to employee rights. I hope that you do not lead Maryland toward such a dark place, where our citizens work for dismal pay and minimal or no health benefits. As a fellow leader, I ask that you strive for what is best for the Maryland worker. Here at Local 26, we cultivate an atmosphere where our signatory contractors are extremely profitable and our members have decent wages, benefits, and a pension that allows our members to retire with peace of mind and dignity. I respectfully ask you to do the same, make Maryland succeed for business and labor.

As a lifelong citizen of Maryland and a leader of one its largest labor unions, I ask you once again to oppose HB 163. I thank you for your continued support for those men and women that make Maryland a great place to live and work.

Sincerely,

George C. Hogan
Business Manager

