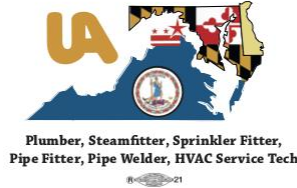


Mid Atlantic Pipe Trades Association



Maryland House of Delegates – Economic Matters Committee

TO: Delegate Derrick Davis, Chair; Delegate Kathleen Dumais, Vice Chair; and Member of the House Economic Matters Committee.

FROM: Jason Ascher, Political Director – Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

Support HB 582 – Procurement Prevailing Wage Applicability

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association and its over seven thousand members from United Association Locals across the state, I ask that you SUPPORT HB 582.

Prevailing Wage ends the race to the bottom on wages for public construction project. It ensures that all contractors bidding for public works project have to pay the same wages and benefit to win the bid. It also gives small and midsized contractor the opportunity to bid on public works projects.

At the moment Maryland has one of, if not the highest thresholds for prevailing wage in the county. This extremely high threshold limits the number of projects done under prevailing wage rates, which allows low road contractors, whose wage theft practices cost the state and local governments tax dollars each year, to win bids that should be going to small or medium sized contractor that cannot compete otherwise for public works projects. Using these small to medium sized contractors you help with local workforce development by using contractors who participate in apprenticeship programs that are registered with the state and federal government and they produce some of the best skilled local craftsmen in the state.

For the reasons listed above, I ask that you SUPPORT HB 582 with a favorable report.

Sincerely,
Jason Ascher
Political Director
Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association
7050 Oakland Mills Road, Suite 180
Columbia, MD 21046