



Maryland House of Delegates – Economic Matters Committee

Chair: Dereck Davis

Vice Chair: Kathleen M. Dumais

House Bill 582- Procurement Prevailing Wage Applicability

Position: Support

The Mechanical Contractors Association of Metropolitan Washington (MCAMW) strongly supports House Bill 582, Procurement – Prevailing Wage- Applicability. The MCAMW is comprised of 75 mechanical contracting firms, and additionally represents 125 contractors signatory to Plumbers & Gasfitters Local Union No. 5 and Steamfitters Local Union No. 602. The contractors that embody the MCAMW employ roughly 10,000 union and non-union employees, these careers are inclusive of the skilled journey men/ women and apprentices who build and maintain the major projects and buildings throughout the state of Maryland. Additionally careers provided by the MCAMW contractors include the hired personnel needed in the front offices; project managers, estimators, dispatchers, human resource staff, finance, sales, marketing, etc.

The MCAMW and our union partners take enormous pride in our shared effort and dedication to the skilled trades. Together we train approximately 1,000 apprentices year after year while providing a self-funded training program that prepares these men and women for life long careers in the mechanical industry. Our training program ensures our apprentices are the best trained, highly skilled, knowledgeable and safest workforce in the construction industry. Without hesitation the MCAMW can proudly say that our workforce is compensated a fair wage and benefits package for the work they perform. These fair and consistent wages allow our workforce to have a better standard of living and ability to provide a modest and comfortable lifestyle for themselves and their families.

The current prevailing wage requirements established by the state of Maryland are of the highest (based on percentage funding and dollar threshold) in comparison to all other states across the United States. The high funding limit (50%) and \$500K entry point on new projects prevents the majority of our signatory contractors to even consider bidding on the projects that receive state funding. By lowering the percentage of state funding, this will allow a significant number of contractors to compete within this market space , which will allow for many more employers to provide fair wages and benefits to the skilled workforce Journeymen/women, apprentices and office personnel.

The MCAMW respectfully seeks your full support of House Bill 582.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Bello", is written over a horizontal line.

Thomas L. Bello

Executive Vice President

Attachment