

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

AFFILIATED WITH:

CHOICE Building Trades Council — AFL-CIO
Baltimore Port Council
Baltimore Metro Council — AFL-CIO
Central MD Labor Council — AFL-CIO
Del-Mar-Va Labor Council — AFL-CIO
Maryland State - D.C. — AFL-CIO
National Safety Council



AFL-CIO-CLC

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21230

JOHN L. RANKIN, President
DAVID W. SPRINGHAM, JR., Recording Secretary
MICHAEL J. McHALE, Financial Secretary
PETER P. DEMCHUK, Business Manager

OFFICE:
2701 W. PATAPSCO AVENUE
SUITE 200

Phone: 410-247-5511
800-348-3721
FAX: 410-536-4338

Written Testimony of
Peter Demchuk, Business Manager,
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers LOCAL 24
Before the
House Economic Matters Committee On
HB 956 Labor and Employment
– Wage Payment and Collection – General Contractor Liability

Opposed

February 24, 2020

Chairman Davis and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in **Opposition** to House Bill 956.

For the record my name is Peter Demchuk. I am a lifelong resident of Maryland currently residing in District 7 of Baltimore County. I am a 38 year member and Business Manager of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 24 located in Baltimore. I represent approximately 2000 hardworking, Maryland tax paying electricians. I started as an apprentice in 1979 and have held numerous positions over the years. The reason I give my background is to show my commitment to not only my profession but to all working men and women in Maryland.

This legislation amends the law as it applies to the construction industry, making the general contractor jointly and severally liable for any violations committed by its subcontractors. An employee private right of action against the general contractor allows them to have a greater chance of actually recovering the unpaid wages they've worked for.

General contractor liability creates incentive for contractors to thoroughly vet the subcontractors they choose to work with, creating a self-policing construction industry in Maryland.

Increasing compliance with State law means income and payroll tax revenues will rise and workers' compensation will be properly paid.

Providing workers with a new remedy against payroll fraud and improving the construction industry in Maryland has led to our full support of general contractor liability for unpaid wages.

With the goal of ending worker exploitation, we ask you to vote unfavorably for HB956.

We urge the Committee for an **unfavorable** report!

Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter P. Demchuk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Peter P. Demchuk
Business Manager

PPD:mgs

opeiu #2

AFL-CIO