



**District Council No. 51**  
4700 Boston Way  
Lanham, MD 20706  
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## ONE VOICE

Representing:  
Protective and Decorative  
Coatings Applicators  
Painters  
Decorators  
Wall Coverers  
Drywall Finishers  
Glaziers  
Architectural Metal Workers  
Glass Workers  
Civil Service Workers  
Shipyard Workers  
Maintenance Workers  
Metal Polishers  
Metalizers  
Bridge Painters  
Riggers  
Tank Painters  
Marine Painters  
Containment Workers  
Lead Abatement Workers  
Sand Blasters  
Water Blasters  
Sign Painters  
Paint Makers

## ONE AGENDA

Affiliated Local Unions  
Local Union 1  
Local Union 368  
Local Union 474  
Local Union 890  
Local Union 963  
Local Union 1100  
Local Union 1846  
Local Union 1937  
Local Union 1997

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# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PAINTERS AND ALLIED TRADES, AFL-CIO DISTRICT COUNCIL NO. 51

February 24, 2020

House of Delegates Economic Matters Committee:

Dereck E. Davis, Chair  
Kathleen M. Dumais, Vice Chair  
House Office Building, Room 231  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Honorable Members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

I am Roxana Mejia, Director of Government Affairs of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 51 covering the Maryland, Virginia and District of Columbia jurisdictions. I represent over 2,000 members in the finishing trades of the construction industry.

I want to thank the Committee Members for taking the time to read our **OPPOSITION** to HB 956 Labor and Employment-Wage Payment and Collections General Contractor Liability

I write to you today to urge you to vote against HB956. Is a bill only to shift the burden of due diligence for proper wages from the employer to the exploited worker with minimal to no resources to defend themselves who is at highest risk of being victims of wage theft. MD General Session bill HB1539/SB853 Labor and Employment-General Contractors Liability for Unpaid Wages passed and was enacted as Chapter 846 and Chapter 17 respectively on May 26, 2018 and became effective, October 1, 2018. This law has only been in place for some months. The bill was created to help protect vulnerable workers who are afraid to report any wage theft and this change will only move the state backwards in protecting its most vulnerable population.

Please vote unfavorable on HB 956.

Thank you

Roxana Mejia  
Director of Government Affairs  
IUPAT DC 51