

Maryland House of delegates – Economic Matters Committee

Chair: Dereck E. Davis Vice Chair: Kathleen M. Dumais

House Bill 1048 – Public Utilities – Investor Owned Utilities - Prevailing Wage

Position: Support

Electrical Workers Insulators Boilermakers United Association Roofers Cement Masons Teamsters Laborers Bricklayers Ironworkers Sheet Metal Workers Elevator Constructors Painters Operating Engineers Carpenters

The Baltimore DC Metro Building Trades Council supports HB 1048. Prevailing wage requires contractors to employ registered apprentices and journeypersons that are compensated with fair wages and fringe benefits that include defined pensions and health insurance for themselves and their families with no pre-existing conditions. They are also part of the Joint Apprenticeship Training Council with labor and management funding our apprenticeship programs at no cost to our apprentices and setting the gold standard for apprenticeship programs throughout the State. Prevailing wages on public/private utilities projects provide an influx of money into local communities and into the more rural parts of MD. It provides a means of employment that can keep younger residents from having to leave their homes to find work in D.C., Baltimore or out of state. Utilities such as water, gas and electric are in continual need of upgrades for maintenance and expansion into Maryland's rural, suburban and urban centers. Prevailing wages will not predicate an increase in utilities rates but may actually lower them with a higher standard of production and quality of installation.

We urge the Committee for a favorable report. Thank you.

Jeffry Guido – Director

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