

Mid Atlantic Pipe Trades Association



Maryland Senate – Finance Committee

TO: Senator Delores Kelley, Chair; Senator Brian Feldman, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee.

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

Support SB 35 – Procurement Prevailing Wage Applicability

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association and its over fourteen thousand members and families from the United Association Locals across the state, I ask that you SUPPORT SB 35.

Prevailing Wage ends the race to the bottom on wages for public construction projects. It ensures that all contractors bidding for public works projects have to pay the same wages and benefits to win the bid. It also gives small and mid-sized contractors 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 country. This extremely high threshold limits the number of projects done under prevailing wage rates. The effect of this is that low-road contractors, whose wage theft practices cost the state and local governments tax dollars each year, win bids. Lowering the threshold from \$500,000 to \$250,000 of state money as well as dropping the percentage of state money from 50% to 0% would go a long way to keep these bad actors off projects and give small and medium-sized contractors a better chance of winning a bid. This helps locally owned businesses and local workers better their lives and their communities.

For the reasons listed above, I ask that you SUPPORT SB 35 with a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Jason Ascher

Political Director

Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

7050 Oakland Mills Road, Suite 180

Columbia, MD 21046