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The Honorable Chairman Dereck Davis and
Members of the Economic Matters Committee

RE: SUPPORT HB-1012

REPRESENTATIVES

CUMBERLAND
Local 600
JASON WEAVER

BRUNSWICK
Local 631
TOM CAHILL

EDMONSTON
Local 1470
KENZELL CRAWFORD

BALTIMORE
Local 610
JOHNNY WALKER

Local 1949
ERIC BILSON

As Legislative Director in Maryland for the Transportation Division of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Worker's (SMART) we urge your committee to **support HB-1012**, "*Labor and Employment – Reinstatement of Employment – Employees at Baltimore–Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI–Thurgood Marshall Workers' Right to Reinstatement Act).*"

The COVID19 Pandemic has spared no one from its affects. Especially individuals who have lost their love ones and those who have lost their employment. There is no better time for the state to act to alleviate some of the hardships being experienced by so many.

Among those severely affected are the low-wage workers who were employed at the BWI–Thurgood Marshall Airport. Most have lost their jobs as a result of the Pandemic by being furloughed by their employer. Although they did receive unemployment benefits, they are most interested in returning to their previous employment.

HB-1012 would require private sector employers (excluding airlines) at BWI–Thurgood Marshall Airport to call their furloughed employees back to work as business returns. It would also give some relief to these employees in the form of knowing their job would await them.

With the country scheduled to be vaccinated by early summer, air travel is expected to increase dramatically. The employers at the airport would benefit from this legislation by having immediate access to experienced, trained workers who are already security cleared and ready to be re-employed in their previous positions.

Many of these employers received Pandemic relief in the form of rent reductions, extended leases and access to loans, grants and subsidies from the government. The employees deserve a little comfort in knowing their job awaits them.

We urge a favorable report on HB-1012.

Sincerely

Lawrence E. Kasecamp
MD State Legislative Director
SMART Transportation Division