

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

AFFILIATED WITH:

Baltimore-D.C. Metro 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

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Written Testimony of

Peter Demchuk, Business Manager, IBEW LOCAL 24

Before the

House Economic Matters Committee On

HB 1199 – Worker's Compensation – Occupational Disease Presumptions – Covid - 19

SUPPORT

February 26, 2021

Dear Chairman Davis and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my written testimony supporting House Bill 1199.

For the record, my name is Peter Demchuk. I am a 41-year member, and the Business Manager, of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 24, located in Baltimore. I represent approximately 2,000 hardworking, Maryland tax paying electricians. I am a lifelong resident of Maryland and reside in District 7 of Baltimore County.

None of us could have seen a global emergency like Covid-19 coming. However, we could have and should have seen the lack of protection in place for our essential workers. Often times the media has described essential workers as nurses and doctors on the frontlines of fighting this pandemic. While this is true, it doesn't address the tens of thousands of other Marylanders who were considered essential during this emergency. From grocery and fast food employees to retail and transportation workers. The men and women that kept our State going were typically some of the lowest paid, and least protected. They worked countless hours in

unsafe conditions while many white collar and higher salaried employees worked from home or collected unemployment. The very least we could do is compensate these workers when they are diagnosed with an illness while performing that essential work.

This is why we strongly support HB 1199 and ask you to give it a favorable report.

Thank you,



Peter P. Demchuk

PPD:clr
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