

# 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  
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## Written Testimony of

Peter Demchuk, Business Manager, IBEW, LOCAL 24

Before the

House Economic Matters Committee on

HB – 1326 - Maryland Healthy Working Families Act – Revisions and Public Health Emergency Leave

## SUPPORT

February 26, 2021

Dear Chairman Davis, and members of the House Economic Matters Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony supporting House Bill 1326.

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. Additionally, I am a lifelong resident of Maryland currently residing in District 7 of Baltimore County.

The out-break of Covid-19 brings to light the importance of the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act. While construction workers are considered essential personnel and reported to work every day thru this pandemic, most people don't understand the condition that construction workers have on jobsites. The rest room is a "portable outhouse" that is shared by the entire job site, rarely is there running water to wash your hands. If someone gets sick it will typically spread thru the job site, which led to many job sites closing because of a Covid-19 outbreak. The question is to risk missing a day's pay and financial hardship or expose the job site to what ailment you may have!

So please protect our essential workers building our hospitals, our water treatment facilities and other buildings that allow us to stay healthy, our houses to stay warm, our drinking water to flow and our toilets to flush. These workers deserve protection from a health crisis regardless of how long they have been employed!

This is why I'm asking you to give HB 1326 a favorable report.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter P. Demchuk". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peter P. Demchuk

PPD:clr  
AFL-CIO  
OPEIU # 2