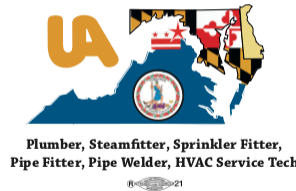


**Mid Atlantic Pipe Trades Association**



Maryland House of Delegates – Economic Matters Committee

**TO:** Delegate Derrick Davis, Chair; and Member of the House Economic Matters Committee.

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

**Support HB 37 – 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 HB 37.

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 benefit 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, to 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 business and local workers better their life and their community.

For the reasons listed above, I ask that you SUPPORT HB 37 with a favorable report.

Sincerely,  
Jason Ascher  
Political Director  
Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association  
7050 Oakland Mills Road, Suite 180  
Columbia, MD 21046