

Chairman Derek E. Davis  
Vice-Chair Kathleen Dumais  
Members  
Economic Matters Committee  
House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street, Rm. 21  
Annapolis, MD 21401

January 21, 2021

**RE: HB 174 – Public Utilities – Investor-Owned Utilities – Prevailing Wage**  
**Position: Support**

Chairman Davis and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

My Name is Raymin Diaz. I am one of the 3,000 members of LiUNA's Local 11 working throughout the DMV region in support House Bill 174, which would apply prevailing wage to most underground utility work in the State of Maryland.

About 1,600 of our 3,000 members live in Maryland and are on the job everyday. Many of us own homes and pay Maryland property taxes. All of us pay Maryland state income taxes. And all of us pay sales tax on the goods and services we buy in Maryland. The overwhelming majority of our members, no matter where they live, are contributing to their local tax base because they work on construction projects that pay the prevailing wage.

Through LiUNA and Maryland's prevailing wage, I found a pathway into the middle class for me and my family because this state has clearly made the choice to leverage funding for infrastructure construction in ways that help contractors pay family sustaining wages, with health and pension benefits. This bill is simply a natural extension of Maryland's prevailing wage to critical energy infrastructure the public depends on every day. And it will help thousands of construction workers like me to realize the opportunity of the American Dream.

National research has shown, again and again, that prevailing wage laws help local workers attain higher wage jobs with increased healthcare and pension coverage. Research also shows these laws help bolster local economies and reduce drag on state-managed social safety nets.

The bottom line is that prevailing wage promotes employment of local contractors and construction workers. Local 11 works with over 100 local contractors in Maryland, D.C. and Virginia. Working for many of these contractors, I know that they take care of their employees. I know that their success comes from the way they treat their employees.

Prevailing wage makes this possible, and make it possible for our contractors to provide a pathway to the middle class for thousands of construction workers in Maryland.

I urge you to support House Bill 174. Thank you