



March 3, 2021

TESTIMONY

HB 1321 – Labor and Employment – Right to Work

OPPOSITION / UNFAVORABLE

Honorable members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

On behalf of the Mechanical Contractors Association on Metro Washington (MCAMW), the 180 construction contractors that we represent, and the 10,000 workers and 1,100 hard-working apprentices among our ranks, I write in strong opposition to HB1321, the so-called “Right to work” legislation before the Economic Matters Committee.

We’ve seen “Right to Work” efforts across the nation, but we can not allow it to happen in Maryland, because it is a mislabeled assault on workers and their rights to join and participate in a union.

The MCAMW is not a union. We represent close to 200 private sector contractors, most of whom are signatory contractors to unions. Why do we build union? Because it’s good for business. If it weren’t, the MCAMW could not generate some \$2 BILLION in annual revenue, and some \$500 MILLION in state, federal and local taxes each and every year. We do it by investing in outstanding apprenticeship training programs, world-class construction standards, and by partnering within the private sector and governmental sectors to build the highest quality infrastructure to be found anywhere in the world.

National “Right to Work” efforts are designed to crush the work that we do, and the rights of workers that we represent. It’s a dangerous and dishonest attempt to minimize labor representation, which is ultimately bad for the construction sector, and the businesses that we represent.

For these reasons, we request an unfavorable committee report on HB1321.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Bello", written in a cursive style.

Thomas L Bello

Executive Vice President