

Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association



PLUMBERS - STEAMFITTERS - SPRINKLER FITTERS
- PIPE WELDERS - HVAC SERVICE TECHS

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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 174 – Public Utilities – Investor-Owned Utilities – Prevailing Wage

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association and it's over seven thousand members from United Association Locals across the state, I ask that you SUPPORT HB 174.

When work performed on underground utility lines, like gas and electricity, there is typically other infrastructure that gets torn up and fixed afterward. The effect on public infrastructure puts a taxpayer's interest in these projects, and we need to ensure the best value for the taxpayers. Using Prevailing Wage will end the race to the bottom on wages, provide the best-trained workers from registered apprenticeship programs. Prevailing wage projects typically go to legitimate contractors who have registered apprenticeships, don't misclassify workers, and provide other benefits like health insurance and retirement savings.

While this legislation is a step in the right direction, we would like to see it amended to cover all utilities above and below the ground.

For the reasons listed above, I ask that you SUPPORT HB 174 with a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Jason Ascher

Political Director

Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

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