

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
Central MD Labor Council — AFL-CIO
Del-Mar-Va Labor Council — AFL-CIO
Maryland State - D.C. — AFL-CIO
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BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21230

JOHN L. RANKIN, President
DAVID W. SPRINGHAM, JR., Recording Secretary
MICHAEL J. McHALE, Financial Secretary
PETER P. DEMCHUK, Business Manager

OFFICE:

2701 W. PATAPSCO AVE
SUITE 200

Phone: 410-247-5511

FAX: 410-536-4338

Written Testimony of

Peter Demchuk, Business Manager, IBEW LOCAL 24

Before the

Senate Finance Committee On

SB 813 – Worker’s Compensation – Occupational Disease Presumptions – Covid - 19

SUPPORT

March 5, 2021

Dear Madame Chair Kelley and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my written testimony supporting Senate Bill 813.

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. I represent approximately 2,000 hardworking, Maryland tax paying electricians. I am a lifelong resident of Maryland and reside in District 7 of Baltimore County.

None of us could have seen a global emergency like Covid-19 coming. However, we could have and should have seen the lack of protection in place for our essential workers. Often times the media has described essential workers as nurses and doctors on the frontlines of fighting this pandemic. While this is true, it doesn’t address the tens of thousands of other Marylanders who were considered essential during this emergency. From grocery and fast food employees to retail and transportation workers. The men and women that kept our State going were typically some of the lowest paid, and least protected. They worked countless hours in

unsafe conditions while many white collar and higher salaried employees worked from home or collected unemployment. The very least we could do is compensate these workers when they are diagnosed with an illness while performing that essential work.

This is why we strongly support SB 813 and ask you to give it a favorable report.

Thank you,



Peter P. Demchuk

PPD:clr
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