

MID-ATLANTIC PIPE TRADES ASSOCIATION



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

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Maryland Senate – Senate Finance Committee

TO: Delores Kelley, Chair; Brian Feldman, Vice Chair; and Member of the Senate Finance Committee

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

Support SB 95 – Public Utilities – Investor-Owned Utilities – Prevailing Wage

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association and its over seven thousand members from United Association Locals across the state, I ask that you SUPPORT SB 95.

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 SB 95 with a favorable report.

Sincerely,
Jason Ascher
Political Director
Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association

Plumbers and Gasfitter Local 5 – Camp Springs, MD

Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 10 – Richmond, VA/Roanoke, VA

Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 110 – Norfolk, VA

Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 486 – Baltimore, MD

Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 489 – Cumberland, MD

Steamfitters Local 669 – Capitol Heights, MD

Road Sprinkler Fitters Local 669 – Columbia, MD