

Chair Delores Kelley
Vice-Chair Brian Feldman
Members
Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Ofc Bldg
Annapolis, MD 21401

January 28, 2021

RE: SB 95 – Public Utilities – Investor-Owned Utilities – Prevailing Wage
Position: Support

Chairwoman Kelley and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My Name is Raymin Diaz. I am one of the about 3,000 members of LiUNA's Local 11 working throughout the DMV region who are in support Senate Bill 95.

Through Maryland's prevailing wage, I found a pathway into the middle class for me and my family. My family has benefited because this state has made the clear choice to leverage funding for infrastructure construction in ways that help contractors pay for apprenticeship training, pay family sustaining wages, and provide good benefits. I am the prime example of the positive impacts prevailing wage on Maryland's economy.

Like me, about 1,600 Local 11 members live in Maryland and are on the job everyday. Many of us pay Maryland property taxes. All of us pay income and sales taxes in Maryland. Our members contribute to their local tax base because they work on essential public construction projects that pay the prevailing wage. Senate Bill 95 is a simple extension Maryland's prevailing wage to critical energy infrastructure the public depends on every day.

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

Local 11 works with over 100 local contractors in Maryland, D.C. and Virginia that do heavy infrastructure, as well as public utility work. This bill will help these contractors hire more Marylanders to safely build and maintain the state's utility infrastructure.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 95. Thank you.