



# MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

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**SB 95 – Public Utilities – Investor-Owned Utilities – Prevailing Wage  
Senate Finance Committee  
January 28, 2021**

**SUPPORT**

**Donna S. Edwards  
President  
Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 95 – Public Utilities – Investor-Owned Utilities – Prevailing Wage. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 340,000 union members in the state of Maryland, I offer the following comments.

It is the oft-stated and long-standing position of the Maryland State and D.C. AFL-CIO to advocate for the expansion of Prevailing Wage law to more construction projects in the State. We know that Prevailing Wage brings multiple benefits to communities in the way of an increased tax base, higher quality workforces, and higher standard of living. On State and Local government projects, Prevailing Wage law ensures that the taxpayers are getting the highest quality product for the money while supporting family sustaining jobs. Prevailing Wage law ensures that the next generation of construction workers are receiving the gold-standard in construction training, by increased funding for Apprenticeship Training Programs through the Joint Apprenticeship Training Council (JATC).

SB 95 applies Prevailing Wage to construction projects by Investor Owned Utility Companies. This expansion will be a boon to local communities, Journeymen and Apprentices and their families, and to the communities where these utilities operate. Far from being “onerous” as an expense, Prevailing Wage projects prove the old adage that “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure”. By building projects with the highest standards, to begin with, utility companies will realize great savings on maintenance and repair costs over the life of the project.

**We urge a favorable report on SB 95.**