



District Council No. 51
4700 Boston Way
Lanham, MD 20706
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ONE VOICE

Representing:
Protective and Decorative
Coatings Applicators
Painters
Decorators
Wall Coverers
Drywall Finishers
Glaziers
Architectural Metal Workers
Glass Workers
Civil Service Workers
Shipyards Workers
Maintenance Workers
Metal Polishers
Metalizers
Bridge Painters
Riggers
Tank Painters
Marine Painters
Containment Workers
Lead Abatement Workers
Sand Blasters
Water Blasters
Sign Painters
Paint Makers

ONE AGENDA

Affiliated Local Unions
Local Union 1
Local Union 368
Local Union 474
Local Union 890
Local Union 963
Local Union 1100
Local Union 1846
Local Union 1937

Over 100 Years Serving
Maryland
Virginia
Washington, DC



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PAINTERS AND ALLIED TRADES, AFL-CIO DISTRICT COUNCIL NO. 51

January 28, 2021

Senate Finance Committee:
Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Brian J. Feldman, Vice Chair
Miller Senate Office Building, Room 3E
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Brian Courtien and I am the Business Manager of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, District Council 51 covering the Maryland, Virginia, and District of Columbia jurisdictions. We represent over 1,500 members in the finishing trades of the construction industry.

I want to thank the Committee Members for taking the time to read of SUPPORT of SB 035 – Procurement Prevailing Wage Applicability.

I write to you today to urge you to vote in support of SB 035. Maryland has the highest prevailing wage threshold in the Nation. Maryland's current monetary threshold of \$500,000.00, the highest prevailing wage threshold of any State and well above the Federal Davis-Bacon threshold of \$2,000.00, is then coupled with a 50% of State funding requirement creating a threshold that can be in the millions of dollars. Eliminating the percentage requirement will create a more level playing field and competitive bid process for contractors when requests for proposals are issued by the Maryland Board of Public Works.

Majority of our signatory contractors are small businesses, and they deserve the opportunity to be competitive on these projects. Prevailing wage requires contractors to increase local hires with registered apprentices and journey workers and compensate them with fair wages and fringe benefits. Our signatory contractors pay these wages and benefits, provide health care and pension for them and their families.

In addition, we participate in a helmets and hard hats that train veterans in our industries to work in local construction projects. They are part of the Joint Apprenticeship Training Council with labor and management funding our apprenticeship programs at no cost to our apprentices and setting a gold standard for apprenticeship programs throughout the State. Prevailing wages used for State funded projects provide an influx of money into local communities and into the more rural parts of Maryland. Taxpayer dollars need to be used to maintain the economic standard of the communities where State funded projects are being constructed. Eliminating the percentage will revitalize our local economy and provides workers and contractors the opportunity to work near their home.

Please vote favorably on bill SB 35.

Thank you,

Brian Courtien
Business Manager/Secretary Treasurer
IUPAT DC 51