

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

National Safety Council



AFL-CIO-CLC

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 – 653 -Labor and Employment – Maryland Healthy Working Families Act- Application

SUPPORT

February 23, 2021

Dear Madame Chair Kelley, and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony supporting Senate Bill 653.

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. Additionally, I am a lifelong resident of Maryland currently residing in District 7 of Baltimore County.

The out-break of Covid-19 brings to light the importance of the Maryland Healthy Working Families Act, while construction workers are considered essential personnel and reported to work every day thru the pandemic. Most people don't understand the condition that construction workers have on jobsites. The rest room is a "portable outhouse" that is shared by the entire job site, rarely is there running water to wash your hands. If someone gets sick typically it will spread thru the job site, which led to many job sites closing because of a Covid-19 outbreak. The question is do risk missing a day's pay and financial hardship or expose the job site to what ailment you may have!

When I started in the trade years ago jobs would shut down during the winter, now they wrap the exterior in plastic, and put in a few heaters to keep the temperature above freezing and keep on building! Just another example of a Petri dish waiting for a virus to take hold and grow like wild fire.

So please protect our essential workers that are building hospitals, our water treatment facilities and other buildings that allow us to stay healthy, our house to stay warm, our drinking water to flow and our toilets to flush.

This is why I'm asking you to give SB 653 a favorable report.

Thank you,



Peter P. Demchuk

PPD:clr
AFL-CIO
OPEIU # 2