



International Union of Elevator Constructors Local Union No. 7

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB611 Procurement-Prevailing Wage-Applicability February 15, 2022

To: Hon. C.T. Wilson, Chair, and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee

From: The officers of International Union of Elevator Constructors Local #7

Chair Wilson and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee, please join me and the 344 members of IUEC Local 7 in support of **HB611**. This legislation will expand prevailing wages to service contracts and will benefit working families throughout the state.

Service contracts are often overlooked when it comes to prevailing wage. This bill addresses that issue and puts the state in concert with the Federal Government and in step with local jurisdictions that have recently brought forth similar legislation. Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Charles, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties all look favorably upon this idea. Prevailing wages promote hiring and workforce training in our own local communities. At a time when there is a skilled labor shortage, Maryland can lead the way in securing the most talented workers in the region. According to over three dozen studies on prevailing wages, this bill will increase productivity, increase safety measures, and keep Maryland payroll money in Maryland. In the elevator trade, safety is our number one concern! This legislation would help insure elevators, escalators, moving walks, and other conveyances across the state are serviced and maintained by properly trained and highly skilled personnel. Our members and your constituents deserve the safest workplace possible, as do the Plumbers, Steamfitters, and Electricians. These same studies also confirm that prevailing wages do not increase overall construction or maintenance costs.

Like other organized labor trades, the Elevator Constructors have a highly technical, self funded, apprenticeship program. These trade programs give thousands of Marylanders not just jobs, but well-paying careers with quality benefits. Unlike most industries that testify before this committee, we are not asking for money, we are only seeking job opportunities. Because we are self-funded, our members get an education, receive healthcare, have defined pensions, and earn generational wealth, all at no cost to the state.

By passing HB611, we can enlarge our class enrollment and therefore increase the quality of life for many more working families in our great state. Please consider this bill as a springboard for your young constituents looking for careers in the mechanical service industry. We respectfully ask that you **support HB611**.