

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

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Written Testimony of

Rico Albacarys, Assistant Business Manager, IBEW LOCAL 24

Before the

Economic Matters Committee On

HB 145 State Finance and Procurement - Prevailing Wage - Stop Work Orders

Support

January 21, 2022

Chairman Wilson and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in **support** of House Bill 145.

My name is Rico Albacarys and I'm an employee and member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 24, in Baltimore.

In my capacity as an employee of Local 24, I often go to prevailing wage job sites to speak to unrepresented workers. I have minimal access and no authority so it's very difficult to have a meaningful conversation with the men and women working on these construction sites. Even with such

minimal access the amount of wage theft I have seen is astonishing. I use the word theft because that's what it is. Not paying a worker properly, or misclassifying them entirely, is not only stealing from the worker, it's also stealing from the State.

Employees are being misclassified outside of the job they're performing or classified as 1099 contractors as opposed to employees. Oftentimes, this is happening to the most vulnerable workers who may be afraid to speak up for a variety of reasons. Our Maryland residents deserve better and we should be doing better. We should hold contractors and subcontractors accountable when they are mistreating workers and HB 145 helps to remedy this situation. Someone with authority can investigate these bad actors and be sure Maryland workers are being treated fairly in regards to wages and classification. Rules have no impact if there aren't consequences, HB 145 states these consequences plainly and ensures low road contractors will be held accountable for their actions. That is why we are asking the Committee to **support** HB 145

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rico Albacarys', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rico Albacarys

Assistant Business Manager