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## House Economic Matters Committee

**To:** Delegate CT Wilson, Chair; Delegate Brian Crosby Vice-Chair; and Members of the Committee.  
**From:** Jason Ascher, Political Director, Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association.

### **HB 611 - Procurement – Prevailing Wage – Applicability**

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association and our 10,000+ United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitter members across Maryland, I ask you to **SUPPORT HB 611**.

The prevailing wage helps to level the playing field and make sure that local workers can work on local construction projects. The same is true with mechanical service. After workers, like our members, finish building the piping systems in a store, home, or office, someone needs to come back occasionally to maintain these mechanical systems and ensure they are and continue to work. Servicing these systems happens whether they be plumbing, HVAC, Fire Sprinklers, refrigeration, etc. These service jobs make up approximately 50% of our members. They have undergone the same training and received the same certifications as the workers who built the system but have chosen a different path to service these systems.

HB 611 will clear up confusion in the state code and ensure that these mechanical service workers earn the same prevailing wage as their construction counterparts. By paying the prevailing wage on mechanical service contracts, you will be providing a level playing field for small and minority-owned businesses to bid on these contracts and allow these businesses to grow. When contracts that pay good wages and benefits get more work and grow, people need public assistance, fewer people need multiple jobs, and more people can take care of their families.

For these reasons, I ask you to **SUPPORT HB 611**.

Sincerely,

Jason Ascher  
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