

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
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BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21230

C. SAMUEL CURRERI, President
DAVID W. SPRINGHAM, JR., Recording Secretary
JEROME T. MILLER, Financial Secretary
MICHAEL J. McHALE, Business Manager

OFFICE:

2701 W. PATAPSCO AVE
SUITE 200

Phone: 410-247-5511
FAX: 410-536-4338

Written Testimony of

Rico Albacarys, Assistant Business Manager, IBEW LOCAL 24

Before the

Economic Matters Committee On

HB 299 Labor and Employment – Employment Standards and Conditions – Definition of Employer

Support

January 28, 2022

Chairman Wilson and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in **support** of House Bill 299.

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 job sites to speak to unrepresented workers. When I talk to workers on these sites, the problem of worker misclassification becomes clear. Many construction employees are being treated as independent contractors, which is a form of wage theft. I call it theft because that's exactly what it is. The employers who hire these "independent

contractors” are stealing from the workers and the State, by not paying the full freight that is required when one is an employer. This includes paying minimum wages, overtime, unemployment insurance, workers compensation insurance, and payroll taxes. HB 299 aims to remedy this by more clearly defining what is an employer, therefore, more clearly defining who is an employee. For these reasons, I’m asking you to give HB 299 your **support**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Albacarys". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and a trailing flourish.

Rico Albacarys

Assistant Business Manager