



PLUMBERS AND STEAMFITTERS

UA LOCAL UNION 486

8100 Sandpiper Circle, Suite 200

Baltimore, Maryland 21236

Phone: 410-866-4380

Fax: 410-933-3515

www.UALocal486.com

Founded 1889

Pasquale D. Petrovia

Business Manager

Gerald W. Jackson

Assistant Business Manager

Gary G. Glab

Financial Secretary/Treasurer

C. Ryan Ambrose

Business Agent

Harry M. Schleicher Jr.

Business Agent

Stephen M. Nitsch

Business Agent

Todd E. Eckley

Recruiter

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 1203-Labor and Employment – Right To Work

To: Chairman C.T. Wilson, Vice Chair Brian Crosby and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee

From: Gerald W. Jackson: Secretary-Treasurer Maryland State & D.C. AFL-CIO
Assistant Business Manager Plumbers & Steamfitters UA Local 486

I vehemently oppose this bill and ask that this committee looks at the true intent of Right to Work and consider that the foundation of RTW is steeped in SEGREGATION and BIGOTRY.

The “Father of Right To Work” Vance Muse was an unsavory political operative whose views on segregation and Jim Crowism sparked the Movement known as Right To Work.

Vance Muse was the editor of The Christian American insisted that RIGHT TO WORK was essential for the maintenance of the color line. One piece of literature warned that if amendment failed “white women and white men will be forced into organizations with black African apes.... Whom they will have to call brother. Vance Muse cited that organized labor threatened the Jim Crow order.

In November 1944, Arkansas and Florida became the first states to enact Right To Work laws. In the wake of the Arkansas victory, Muse denied the racist and anti-semitic origins of Right To Work by saying “ They call me anti-Jew and anti-nigger, we like the nigger----- in his place, and some of my best friends are Jews, good Jews not those communist agitators.

Finally, it is not coincidental that RTW first took root in the Jim Crow south. In those states few blacks could cast free ballots, poll taxes prevented most working-class whites from voting, election fraud was rampant, and political power was concentrated in the hands of an elite. Right To Work laws sought to make it stay that way, to deprive the least powerful of a voice and to make sure the workers remained divided along so-called racial lines. It would be an incredible irony if, in the name of worker rights the State of Maryland adopts or incorporates Right To Work legislation.

For these reasons I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 1203 and ask that this committee renders an UNFAVORABLE OPINION!!

Respectfully Submitted,

Gerald W. Jackson

MD.D.C.-AFLCIO, Steamfitters and Plumbers Local 486