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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 526 – Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Plumbing and Fuel Gas Services – Licenses and Penalties

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 526**.

As an organization that who has members that are plumbers and gasfitters, we strongly support this legislation. All our members must receive a license to graduate our apprenticeship program. Licensing ensure that the worker knows not just how to install the water and gas pipes, but how to do it safely. Safely to protect them and safely to protect the community. The biggest problems we see with licensing is enforcement and penalties, which this legislation makes a giant leap forward in setting into place.

For these reasons, I ask you to SUPPORT HB 526.

Sincerely,

Jason Ascher Political Director Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association 7050 Oakland Mills Road, Suite 180 Columbia, MD 21046