

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
National Safety Council



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Written Testimony of

Rico Albacarys, Assistant Business Manager, IBEW LOCAL 24

Before the

Economic Matters Committee On

HB 611 Procurement – Prevailing Wage - Applicability

Favorable

February 11, 2022

Chairman Wilson and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in **support** of House Bill 611.

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

The work we do is not easy; it requires high skills and has a fair amount of risk. We understand this, which is why we provide extensive training and fight for quality wages, pensions, and health care. We believe everyone doing this type of work is entitled to these wages, regardless of their affiliation with our organization.

Prevailing wage requires contractors to employ registered apprentices and journeypersons that are compensated with fair wages and fringe benefits, including defined pensions and health insurance for themselves and their families. Prevailing wage laws and the accompanying labor standards are vital to protecting Maryland workers and ensuring Maryland jobs go to Maryland residents.

One area where Maryland law lags behind federal prevailing wage law is on the subject of service contracts. These are smaller contract jobs, typically between \$3,000-\$5,000 and can make up a large portion of work for a mechanical tradesperson. Many of our members work exclusively on these types of contracts, performing work that may take a few hours or days. The shortened length of the contract makes a prevailing wage standard no less important as recognized by the federal McNamara-O'Hara Service Contract Act. HB 611 seeks to bring Maryland law in line with federal law in the small scope of mechanical service contracts (including electric, HVAC, plumbing, refrigeration, steam and gas work, and elevators).

This is why I'm asking you to give HB 611 a **favorable** report.

Sincerely,



Rico Albacarys

Assistant Business Manager