



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 611 Procurement-Prevailing Wage-Applicability February 15, 2022

To: Hon.C.T. Wilson, Chair and members of the House Economic Matters Committee
From: Tom Clark, Political Director, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26

Mr.Chair and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee, please join me and the 11,749 IBEW Marylanders in **support of HB 611**. This piece of legislation that expands prevailing wages to service contracts and benefits working families throughout the state.

Service contracts are often overlooked when it comes to prevailing wage. This bill addresses that issue and puts the state in concert with the Federal Government and in step with local jurisdictions that recently have brought forth similar legislation. Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Charles, Montgomery and Prince George's counties all look favorably upon this idea. Prevailing wages encourage "local hiring" and promotes workforce training in our own backyard. At a time when there is a skilled labor shortage, Maryland can lead the way in securing the most talented workers in the region. According to over three dozen studies on prevailing wages, this bill will: increase productivity, increase safety measures and keep Maryland payroll money in Maryland. In the electrical trade, safety is paramount! Our members and your constituents deserve the safest workplace possible, as do the Plumbers, Steamfitters, and Elevator Technicians. These same studies also confirm that prevailing wages do not increase overall construction or maintenance costs.

I often testify (brag) before the General Assembly about our world class, self-funded, apprenticeship programs. The programs that give thousands of Marylanders not just opportunities, but careers. Unlike most industries that testify before this committee, we are not asking for money, we just want jobs. Because we are self-funded, our members get educated, receive healthcare, have defined pensions and earn generational wealth, all at no cost to the state. By passing HB 611, we can increase our class enrollment, therefore increasing the quality of life for many more working families in our great state.

Please consider this bill as a springboard for your young constituents looking for careers in the mechanical service industry. I respectfully ask that you **support HB 611**. Thank you

