



# Plumbers Local Union No. 5

United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada, AFL-CIO

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February 10, 2022

Dear Chair Kelley and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

As **Business Manager/Financial Secretary Treasurer** of UA Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 5, please accept this letter in strong support of Senate Bill 259, Procurement - Prevailing Wage - Applicability.

The UA Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 5 have been installing, maintaining, and servicing the waste, water & gas systems in the Washington D.C. area since 1890. We represent some 1,800 of the most highly skilled construction workers to be found anywhere, including over 300 apprentices, which provide the workforce excellence across some 65 signatory construction contractors throughout the Washington, DC Metropolitan area.

We provide and fund some of the most comprehensive and rigorous skills training programs in the nation, due in large part to the Davis-Bacon and Prevailing Wage programs at the federal, state and county levels. It's because of prevailing wage reforms like those found in Senate Bill 259, as well as those recently enacted in Montgomery County, Arlington County, Baltimore County, and Anne Arundel County, that we can prepare thousands of young apprentices for outstanding middle-class jobs, with health care, pensions, and scholarships.

Make no mistake - this bill is an extremely powerful anti-poverty and stimulative measure, that is greatly needed.

Specifically, Senate Bill 259 acknowledges the vast amount of work performed by construction workers and contractors, in the form of service contracts for mechanical systems, such as electrical, plumbing, HVAC, refrigeration, steam and gas pipework, and elevators. While state contracts deem construction to be eligible for state prevailing wages, there is not prevailing wage eligibility or category for the work that we do servicing those systems once we install them. In addition, Senate Bill 259 limits the scope of these new prevailing wage eligible service contracts to only mechanical systems service contracts. Finally, since these kinds of contracts are vastly smaller in scope than construction contracts (service contracts are usually \$3,000-\$5,000, while prevailing wage construction contracts are more than \$250,000) Senate Bill 259 ties the bill to the low dollar threshold of the parallel federal law, the McNamara-O'Hara Service Contract Act of 1965.

Senators, this bill will have an enormous impact in terms of lifting workers into the middle-class and helping to focus our scarce county safety-net resources on those families who most need them.

On behalf of my members and the thousands of other workers whose lives will be positively impacted by this legislation, thank you for your leadership, for your service, and for your support.

Sincerely,

Terriea "T" Smalls  
UA Plumbers & Gasfitters Local No. 5  
Business Manager / Financial Secretary Treasurer