



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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TESTIMONY

HB 145 / SB1 - STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT – PREVAILING WAGE – STOP WORK ORDERS

FAVORABLE

Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby and honorable members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

As Business Manager/Financial Secretary Treasurer of UA Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 5, please accept this letter in strong support of HB145 /SB1, to authorize the use of Stop Work Order on Maryland state worksites.

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. Those programs are the basis for exceptional skills training and pipelines to outstanding middle class careers in the construction trades.

Our ability to continue those programs is based on our ability to compete on a level playing field with other contractors and construction teams. But when contractors or subcontractors cheat by misclassifying or otherwise engaging in wage theft or exploitation, our workers find it harder and harder to provide the training that has built some of the most important infrastructure in the nation.

But beyond the theft and exploitation of the workers, these practices rob state and local taxpayers of millions of dollars in lost revenues, unemployment insurance, and other programmatic and safety-net funding.

This legislation is a necessary small step in providing a discretionary tool needed to begin to rein in some of these unscrupulous practices.

For these reasons, I ask for a favorable committee report.

Sincerely,

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