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## Senate Finance Committee

**To:** Senator Delores Kelley, Chair; Senator Brian Feldman Vice-Chair; and Members of the Committee.  
**From:** Jason Ascher, Political Director, Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association.

### **Support Senate Bill 1 State Finance and Procurement – Prevailing Wage – Stop Work Orders**

On behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Pipe Trades Association and its over fourteen thousand members and families from the United Association Locals across Maryland, I ask that you **SUPPORT SB 1**.

This legislation is designed to do one thing. Stop wage theft and misclassification by making it harder for “bad actor” Prime Contractors, General Contractors, and Sub-Contractors off construction sites. These “bad actors” knowingly misclassify workers on publicly funded construction projects to increase their profits. They do this by intentionally classifying employees as independent contractors (1099) while maintaining complete control of all aspects of their time at work, from the hours they work to the tools they use to what they wear on the job site. The employer pays no workers compensation and passes the entire tax burden on to the employee.

A robust enforcement system is the key to ensuring misclassification does not happen and ensuring that only law-abiding contractors are awarded public projects. Contractors being awarded prevailing wage projects should be working in the public interest by providing the proper wage rate, benefits such as health insurance, pension, retirement saving, and apprenticeship training to provide access to a well-paid career.

For all the reasons described above, I ask that you **SUPPORT SB 1**.

Sincerely,

Jason Ascher  
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