



**MBE SWAM SDVOSB**

**Bethel Electrical Construction Company of Maryland**  
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**SB259 / HB611 TESTIMONY**  
**STEPHANIE SWEET, CO-OWNER OF BETHEL ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION COMPANY OF**  
**MARYLAND – CERTIFIED MBE AND SDVOSB**  
**FAVORABLE**

Hello, my name is Stephanie Sweet. I am a co-owner of Bethel Electric Construction Company of Maryland, a certified Minority (MBE), Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) located in Hanover, Maryland, and I strongly support SB259 / HB611. Over the years, Bethel Electric has garnered a solid reputation for providing a wide range of superior and cost-effective electrical services, including successful state procurements at Bowie State University; Attman-Glazer Building in Annapolis; Maryland State Highway Administration Dayton, Annapolis, Silver Spring and Laurel and the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulations.

Our success is attributed to a sincere commitment to safety, quality work, and customer satisfaction. These qualities have helped Bethel Electrical become the trusted electricians of choice throughout the mid-Atlantic region for more than 15 years.

Bethel Electric is also a signatory contractor to IBEW Local 26, and we hire union workers because we need the quality, safety, and on-time scheduling of the work done by these workers. It's simply good business for us. While a significant amount of our work is construction work, we also do a considerable amount of government and private sector service work. Our current partnership with G&M services provides on going leadership and mentoring support through the Mentor Protégé Program under the SBA Program.

This legislation is critical to our future growth and success because it closes a loophole in Maryland regarding the different wages between construction and service work, although the same workers, with the same levels of certification, perform both the construction and service work. By expanding prevailing wages to service work, MBEs like Bethel Electric can better compete on a level playing field among contractors that pay lower wages with minimal benefits, if any. In many cases, they cheat their workers through wage theft and misclassification. In addition, by ensuring that prevailing wages are paid on service work, this legislation enables the Maryland Department of Labor's full enforcement authority to ensure that the critical state taxpayer dollars are being spent as the law requires.

SB259 will go a long way towards empowering small MBEs like my company Bethel Electric. For these reasons, we ask that you support this legislation.