

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

AFFILIATED WITH:

Baltimore-D.C. Metro Building Trades Council — AFL-CIO

Baltimore Port Council

Baltimore Metro Council — AFL-CIO

Central MD Labor Council — AFL-CIO

Del-Mar-Va Labor Council — AFL-CIO

Maryland State - D.C. — AFL-CIO

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Written Testimony of

Rico Albacarys, Assistant Business Manager, IBEW LOCAL 24

Before the

Ways and Means Committee On

HB 02 Income Tax – Work Opportunity Tax Credit

Support

January 24, 2022

Madame Chair Atterbeary and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in **support** of House Bill 02.

My name is Rico Albacarys and I'm an employee and member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 24, in Baltimore. My job with Local 24 is to find qualified electricians and help send them to work for one of our signatory contractors. In the absence of qualified electricians, my job is to find individuals that want to be electricians, and to direct them towards our apprenticeship and training facility. As a member organization, we don't employ electricians in the construction industry, we

only help guide them to our partner contractors. Our contractors do a fair job of finding ways to employ disadvantaged individuals, but many other businesses see what a lot business minded people see, the bottom line. They have to gauge the return on investment with a returning citizen or some other individual with a barrier to employment. HB 02 aims to help change the balance on that risk vs reward and make it more likely for employers all over the State to take a chance on some of these residents.

As a returning citizen myself, I can not tell you how many times I cringed as I filled out an application asking about my past. Just like any one else, I wanted a chance to prove my worth and had a lot of anxiety, wondering if I would be given that chance. After many applications submitted with no response, I was lucky to be given that chance. Many of my fellow residents have not been as lucky, and we as a State need to do more to help them. HB 02 is the first step in that direction and that's why I ask that you give it your **support**.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rico Albacarys', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Rico Albacarys

Assistant Business Manager