



## Eastern Atlantic States REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

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### **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 172** **Union Dues and Expenses to Influence Collective Bargaining** **January 18th, 2022**

TO: Hon. Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee  
FROM: William C. Sproule, Executive Secretary-Treasurer,

The ability to join a union and have the representation and protections of working under a collective bargaining agreement is vital to workers' rights in Maryland. The ability for workers to pay their dues for this representation without outside influences working to undermine their rights is important to a strong workforce and strong economy in Maryland. I and the over 2,000 trained and highly skilled union carpenters in Maryland ask that you support them by voting yes on HB 172.

Workers deserve to be protected and represented by those who have their best interest at heart. That is why it is so important for workers be able to pay their union dues with no added deterrence. The ability for workers, the lifeblood of the Maryland economy, to deduct their dues from Maryland state taxes would be another way to ensure dues payments face less hurdles. Our leaders in Maryland need to show that they support workers so they can in turn support their families and support the local businesses in their communities.

Supporting workers also means making sure their employers are deterred from undermining a worker's choice to join a union. Union busting activities, including the hiring of organizations specialized in undermining union recruitment, is all too common and should not be awarded in anyway. Unions protect workers, provide more opportunity for family sustaining wages in Maryland, and allow for a more cohesive relationship between employers and employees. HB 172 would no longer allow businesses from righting off those costs off the backs of the employees that make their business succeed.

I and the over 2,000 Maryland carpenters I am proud to represent thank you for your consideration and hopeful support of HB 172. Please know myself or any representative of the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters is here to answer any questions you have regarding this bill.

Sincerely,

William C. Sproule