



190 West Ostend St., #201
Baltimore, MD 21230
Phone: 410.547.1515
Fax: 410.837.5436

Patrick Moran - President

HB 498 - Board of Public Works Public Comment Act

POSITION: FAVORABLE

AFSCME Council 3 supports HB 498. This legislation improves transparency and accessibility at the Board of Public Works by allowing for the electronic submission of comments to board agenda items and requires that these comments be made public.

The Board of Public Works is empowered to cut up to 25% of the state's budget when the General Assembly is not in session, which is the majority of the year. This can include our members pay, as well as the facilities they work in. The BPW also oversees the approval of service contracts totaling billions each year, some of which outsource the work our members do. As such, our members and all Marylanders deserve to have a fair and transparent method for engaging with these decisions.

HB 498 is consistent with recent trends to open up the BPW process. We applaud and appreciate efforts to continue this. We urge the committee to provide a favorable report. Thank you.

Every AFSCME Maryland State and University contract guarantees a right to union representation.
An employee has the right to a union representative if requested by the employee.
800.492.1996

Find us: afscmemd.org
Like us: facebook.com/AFSCMEMD
Follow/Tweet us: [@afscmemaryland](https://twitter.com/afscmemaryland)