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HB 797 - Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission - Collective Bargaining Agreement Implementation - Dispute Arbitration MC/PG 103-23

House Appropriations Committee

March 9, 2023

SUPPORT

Donna S. Edwards

President

Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 797 - Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission - Collective Bargaining Agreement Implementation - Dispute Arbitration MC/PG 103-23. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 300,000 union members in the state of Maryland, I offer the following comments.

HB 797 provides balance in the negotiations process, giving both parties every motivation to work toward a timely agreement. Arbitration is a common dispute resolution process in both private and public sector labor relations. It recognizes that both parties do not always agree and that negotiations can reach an impasse. When this happens, a neutral arbitrator is tasked with drafting a written award that lays out the terms of a settlement.

The process listed in the bill for the selection of neutral arbitrators is employed by many unions and employers in Maryland and across the country. Many Montgomery County workers already have the dispute arbitration rights. Workers deserve balanced and prompt decisions. This bill is a fair and balanced approach to providing effective and efficient negotiations for workers at Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

We urge a favorable report for HB 797.