

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - LOCAL UNION No. 24

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Baltimore Port Council
Baltimore Metro Council — AFL-CIO
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Written Testimony of

Rico Albacarys, Assistant Business Agent, IBEW LOCAL 24

Before the Economic Matters Committee On

HB 1097 State and Private Construction Contracts - Prompt Payment Requirements

Support

February 17, 2023

Chairman Wilson and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my **support** for **HB 1097**. This legislation is particularly important for small and minority contractors, who often face challenges in receiving timely payments for their work. While larger contractors may be able to weather these delays, it can be a major factor in driving smaller contractors out of business.

HB 1097 would require a provision in private construction contracts that establishes a period of time for payment and provide notice requirements in the event of payment delays or withheld payments. This provision would offer protections to contractors and subcontractors, ensuring that they receive payment for their services in a timely and fair manner.

The lack of standardized payment terms often puts small and minority contractors at a disadvantage, leaving them vulnerable to delayed or reduced payments. This bill would help to level the playing field and provide greater stability to these contractors, who are critical to the health and growth of our economy.

Therefore, I strongly urge you to vote **favorably** on **HB 1097**, to ensure fair payment practices and support small and minority contractor statewide.

Sincerely,

Rico Albacarys

Assistant Business Agent IBEW Local 24