



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 838 WORKPLACE FRAUD & PREVAILING WAGE-VIOLATIONS-PENALATIES March 2, 2023

TO: Hon. Melony Griffith, Chair and members of the Senate Finance Committee

From: Tom Clark, Political Director, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 26

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, please join with me and the working people of Maryland in **support of SB 838**. Workplace fraud is widespread in our state and this piece of legislation not only helps some of our most vulnerable citizens, but it clearly states the penalties and includes evasion of taxes among them.

Imagine a state funded project that pays Marylanders the market rate (quite often called prevailing wage). Now imagine an electrical contractor trying to avoid paying their employees the prescribed rate, yet proclaiming to the state they are paying these Marylanders correct. These unscrupulous contractors will be stealing from the worker, as well as the state. Unfortunately, the electricians, carpenters, plumbers and bricklayers that our effected, are quite often minorities and those that speak little English. It's time we stand up for these workers and allow them to work without be taken advantage of and receive the "market rate" in order to feed their family and live the American dream. It is also time to rid this area of contractors that feed off our citizens and avoid paying taxes The Comptroller and her office is in full support of penalizing those who commit tax fraud while underpaying Maryland citizens. We hope the Maryland Senate follows suit and condemns this practice of workplace fraud and supports this bill can easily rectify this practice.

I ask that you enthusiastically look upon **SB 838** as a solution to a problem. Keep the Maryland working people at the top of your mind and give this bill a **favorable report**. Thank you

