



## PLUMBERS AND STEAMFITTERS

### UA LOCAL UNION 486

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### Support SB 838

**Chair: Sen. Griffith**

**Vice Chair: Sen. Klausmeier**

**Committee Members:**

**Pasquale D. Petrovia**  
*Business Manager*

**Gerald W. Jackson**  
*Assistant Business Manager*

**Gary G. Glab**  
*Financial Secretary/Treasurer*

**C. Ryan Ambrose**  
*Business Agent*

**Harry M. Schleicher Jr.**  
*Business Agent*

**Stephen M. Nitsch**  
*Business Agent*

**Todd E. Eckley**  
*Recruiter*

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **Senate Bill 838**.  
**I would personally like to thank the sponsors of this bill, which if found favorable is a great step in protecting Maryland workers and the State revenues that are loss because of Wage Theft and misclassification.**

My name is Gerald Jackson and I am the Secretary Treasurer of the Maryland State & D.C. AFL-CIO. I'm also the Assistant Business Manager for the Plumbers & Steamfitters Local Union #486 in Baltimore. On behalf of all workers, Union and non-union I ask this committee to support **SB 838**.

As a Steamfitter who spent the first 31 years of my career on construction sites, I have seen firsthand what happens when workers are exploited by unscrupulous employers. Employee misclassification is a problem because when workers are misclassified as independent contractors by their employers, it not only diminishes their access to labor protections, but it also has real consequences on the State's economy and tax revenues. In 2018 a New Jersey Department of Labor audit discovered more than 12,000 cases in which workers were being misclassified, which resulted in more than \$460 million in underreported wages and \$14 million in lost state unemployment and temporary disability contributions. This widespread practice not only cheats workers out of their entitled wages, but also cheats taxpayers and the government out of dollars that would fund worker's comp and UI.

Wage Theft and Misclassification is even more egregious on Prevailing Wage Jobs where taxpayer dollars are funding these Projects. **SB 838** will put all employers on notice that Maryland protects its' workers and taxpayers alike. If passed, this bill mandates that the DOL refers cases to the Comptroller's Office so that they can recover loss taxes, worker's comp and unemployment Insurance.

Before all else we must protect the rights of the men and women who are working hard each and every day to earn decent, honest and fair living. We cannot build a stronger and fairer economy without strong workplace protections that ensure parity for employees union and nonunion.

On behalf of Maryland Workers, Taxpayers and Businesses, I'm asking for a favorable opinion for **SB 838**.

Sincerely,

  
Gerald W. Jackson Sr.

Sec-Treasurer MDDC AFL-CIO/ Assistant Business Manager Plumbers & Steamfitters LU #486