



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PAINTERS AND ALLIED TRADES, AFL-CIO DISTRICT COUNCIL NO. 51

March 1, 2023

District Council No. 51
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Maryland State Senate Finance Committee:
Melony Griffith, Chair
Katherine Klausmeier, Vice Chair
State Senate Building,
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

ONE VOICE

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

- Representing:
- Protective and Decorative
 - Coatings Applicators
 - Painters
 - Decorators
 - Wall Coverers
 - Drywall Finishers
 - Glaziers
 - Architectural Metal Workers
 - Glass Workers
 - Civil Service Workers
 - Shipyard Workers
 - Maintenance Workers
 - Metal Polishers
 - Metalizers
 - Bridge Painters
 - Riggers
 - Tank Painters
 - Marine Painters
 - Containment Workers
 - Lead Abatement Workers
 - Sand Blasters
 - Water Blasters
 - Sign Painters
 - Paint Makers

I am Roxana Mejia Director of Government and Community Affairs at the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 51 covering the Maryland, Virginia, and District of Columbia jurisdictions. I represent over 1,500 members in the finishing trades of the construction industry.

I want to thank the Committee Members for taking the time to read our SUPPORT to Senate Bill 0838 - Workplace Fraud and Prevailing Wage - Violations -Penalties and Referrals

I write to you today to urge you to vote in support of SB0838. The construction industry features an extensive underground sector in which workers are misclassified as independent contractors or paid in cash off the books, denying the public necessary tax revenues and denying workers the protection of wage and hour laws. This “underground economy” has long been the case in single-family residential construction and renovation, today this form of workplace fraud has penetrated the largest commercial construction sites. Employers who force their employees into this underground economy, either by misclassifying them as independent contractors or by paying them off the books, routinely violate wage and overtime laws. Responsible businesses that classify their workforce as employees operate at a competitive disadvantage with employers that illegally treat their workers as independent contractors. The cost savings associated with misclassification are sufficiently substantial that law-abiding firms in highly competitive industries either lose work opportunities or feel the pressure to consider evading the law in order to compete on what is no longer a level playing field. All taxpayers are negatively impacted because their payments make up for the lost revenues and effectively subsidize those who cheat the system, the county the tax payers.

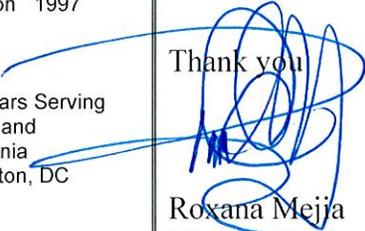
ONE AGENDA

Please vote favorable on SB0838.

- Affiliated Local Unions
- Local Union 1
 - Local Union 368
 - Local Union 474
 - Local Union 890
 - Local Union 963
 - Local Union 1100
 - Local Union 1846
 - Local Union 1937
 - Local Union 1997

Thank you

Over 100 Years Serving
Maryland
Virginia
Washington, DC


Roxana Mejia
Director of Government & Community Affairs
IUPAT DC 51