



District 8

Larry R. Ray
District Director
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January 23, 2023

Delegate Vanessa E. Atterbear
Taylor House Office Building Room 131
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Madame Chair Atterbear,

I am writing to you today to express my support for House Bill 2. This bill provides for an Income Tax Subtraction Modification for Union Dues. District 8's members in Maryland work in a wide variety of industries including the manufacture of concrete, plastics, metal, and even the staff of a newspaper. This is the kind of responsible tax cut that returns money to those who need it most, the hard working citizens of Maryland.

This tax cut was not eliminated by the Maryland General Assembly. The Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017 eliminated union dues deduction on federal income tax. Maryland's tax code does not allow an expense to be itemized when it is not deductible on federal taxes. This penalized Union Members in Maryland not just once, but twice. House Bill 2 will allow the General Assembly to right that wrong, and restore the tax deduction on state income tax.

Restoring the tax deduction on Union Dues is also good for Maryland's economy. Unionized workers, on average, make 11.2 percent more in wages than non-unionized peers. Put another way, nonunion workers made just 81 cents for every dollar that union workers made. Unions often raise wages, even when they do not represent workers in an industry. Efforts to organize a workplace often lead to employers raising wages, whether the workers form a union or not. This tax break also rewards workers who regularly go to work, as dues are often tied to hours worked.

On behalf of the members of the United Steelworkers, District 8 in Maryland, I ask that your committee report favorably on House Bill 2.

Sincerely,

Larry R. Ray
Director, District 8

C: Thomas Crudup Sub Director for Maryland
Chad Conley Rapid Response Coordinator

United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union

