



Statement of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 689

HB 2 – Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Union Dues

January 24th, 2023

TO: The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee
FROM: Matthew Girardi, Political & Communications Organizer, ATU Local 689

ATU Local 689 strongly supports HB 2 – Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Union Dues and urges the House Ways and Means Committee to issue a favorable report. We believe that it is fundamentally a measure about equitable taxation for the normal and routine expenses of working people.

At the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 689, we represent over 15,000 transit workers and retirees throughout the Washington DC Metro Area performing many skilled transportation crafts for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), MetroAccess, DASH, and DC Streetcar among others. Our union helped turn low-wage, exploitative transit jobs into transit careers. We became an engine for the middle-class of this region.

Unions like ours are proud of our role in bringing workers into the middle class and fighting with the heroes that are the backbone of our economy for the wages, benefits, and power they so thoroughly deserve. However, the organized labor movement has been under sustained and systemic assault for decades. Most recently, the damage done by the Federal government's 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was real and effectively double-hit Maryland union members.

In order to revitalize the labor movement and return power to working people in Maryland, ATU Local 689 strongly encourages efforts like HB2. This measure begins to tip the balance back in favor of working people and provides equitable taxation of what should be a routine and normal expense.

We thank Delegate Lewis for continuing to fight for this important measure and urge the committee to issue a favorable report.