



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 211 BUSINESS REGULATION-CONTRACTORS, SUBCONTRACTORS, and BROKERS-PROHIBITED CONDUCT

February 7, 2024

TO: Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby and members of the House Economic Matters Committee
FROM: Tom Clark, Political Director, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and distinguished members of the House Economic Matters Committee. I encourage you to **support HB 211**, a bill designed to address the ever-growing wage theft problem. A problem that unfortunately affects the immigrant community and all those underrepresented in the construction field.

In 2024, Maryland legislators shy away from crimes punishable by prison sentences. I often agree with that sentiment and hope to protect those most vulnerable. The beauty of HB 211, is that it does not call for jail time, rather a ban from operating as a labor broker. Not those accused, but those convicted, over malfeasance under federal or state law. This piece of legislation is designed to safe guard well-meaning tradespeople, against corrupt contractors, sub-contractors and brokers.

Please join with me in **support of HB 211**.

Thank you,

Tom Clark IBEW 26

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Washington, D.C.

