



## **LOCAL UNION 410 INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS**

HB 554 – Support  
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### **HB 554 SUPPORT**

#### **Utility Contractors- Employment and Licensure- Requirements and Application**

#### **Economic Matters Committee**

February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

I would first like to introduce myself. At this moment, I introduce myself as Brian Terwilliger, Assistant Business Manager for IBEW Local 410, representing over 1400 Baltimore Gas and Electric employees. We fully support HB 554 to Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the Economics Matters Committee.

I am here to underscore the paramount importance and full support of HB 554.

HB544 creates an even playing field for those contractors who have engaged in collective bargaining with their employee's representatives. Public utility contracts outlined in this bill should not be handed out to bad actors who only outbid their competition by paying lower wage rates and offering below-market benefits. These projects are crucial to Maryland's ability to move forward with electrification. They should be awarded to contractors based on safety and productivity, not those who can pay the lowest hourly rate and benefits.

Over the last 17 months, I have been engaged in IBEW 410s' arbitration process in helping unjustly terminated employees get their jobs back. In 2 separate situations, after a member was terminated, they had to work for contractors here in Maryland. In both cases, these members lost hourly wages and benefits because of no prevailing wage standard. These companies offered no pension and minimal 401k matches; they provided bare minimum allotments for paid time off, and their healthcare coverage was far below the industry standard.

If the state truly wants to push forward with electrification, we collectively have a lot of work ahead of us. We will need significant upgrades to our electric grid, which will come at a time when the labor markets are fighting for employees. We need to ensure that good paying jobs are here in Maryland, that our workforce is a collective gathering of our communities here in Maryland, and that the revenue from these large-scale projects being worked on brings tax dollars to stay here in Maryland.

Thank you, Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and the members of this committee for your time.