



District Council No. 51
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ONE VOICE

Representing:
Protective and Decorative
Coatings Applicators
Painters
Decorators
Wall Coverers
Drywall Finishers
Glaziers
Architectural Metal Workers
Glass Workers
Civil Service Workers
Shipyards 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

ONE AGENDA

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

Over 100 Years Serving

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

January 29, 2024

House of Delegates Economic Matters Committee:

C.T. Wilson, Chair
Brian M. Crosby, Vice Chair
House Office Building, Room 231
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Honorable Members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

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 HB 465, Workplace Fraud and Prevailing Wage - Violations - Penalties and Referrals.

We support House Bill 465, It establishes criminal penalties for employers who knowingly fail to properly classify individuals as employees, and contractors and subcontractors who knowingly violate State prevailing wage laws.

HB 465 also requires the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to refer to the Comptroller, certain State's Attorneys, the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Department of Labor, and the U.S. Department of the Treasury complaints that allege a violation of certain tax laws under certain circumstances.

With HB 465, Maryland would be joining the ranks of several other states that treat wage theft as a crime. These states include California, Colorado, Illinois, New Jersey, Minnesota, and New Jersey. Wage theft is a massive problem. According to a 2021 report from the Economic Policy Institute, workers are deprived of an estimated \$15 billion per year through minimum wage violations alone, but state and federal enforcement only recovered \$1.7 billion in unlawfully withheld wages between 2017 and 2020 — only 2.8 percent of the estimated \$60 billion stolen over that four-year period. Workers of color, immigrants, and women in low-wage sectors are especially likely to be victims of wage theft.

We urge the Committee to issue a favorable report for HB 465.

Thank you.

Maryland
Virginia
Washington, DC

Roxana Mejia
Director of Government & Community Affairs
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