

**Maryland Senate Finance Committee**

**Chair: Senator Pamela Beidle**

**Vice Chair: Senator Katherine Klausmeier**

**Written testimony in support of Senate Bill 436**

My name is Kenny Mallick and I own and operate Mallick Mechanical Contractors.

I am an Open Shop business owner that served as an ABC board member for 5 years.

In July of last year, I was burdened with the heaviest decision in my 30 year career. "Break the law by getting cheap labor through Illegal labor brokers" or "Shut down my contracting business because I can no longer compete legally. I chose to shut down my business.

This underground labor system exploits illegal immigrants and is discrimination. This is no different than the exploitation that happened during slavery.

This discrimination is padding the pockets of developers as their buildings are being built at a discount. Developers and General Contractors know that this is happening on public and private construction projects. I know this firsthand as I have indirectly participated in this "Illegal labor Broker system" on their jobs.

Several months ago, a GC asked me to increase my labor on a project. I told him that I didn't have the extra labor available but would instead bring in 20 illegal 1099 workers. He shrugged his shoulders, turned his head, and walked away without another word. This General Contractor ranks in the top 5 in the United States.

ABC knows this is happening but can't fix it as half of their members are addicted to this illegal labor practice.

I watched the Construction industry come together and figure out how to build buildings and keep the workers safe during Covid. The industry needs to come together and figure out how to build buildings and legally pay the people who are doing the work. They chose not to.

We let these immigrants into America and are working them. It's time to legally pay them for doing the work. The work that we need done that our citizens don't want to do.

Construction companies used to operate with morals, values and within the law. We are now being forced to exploit people and break the law as there are not enough US citizens entering the construction industry.

We need government intervention as our industry is addicted to cheap illegal labor and can't help itself.

Please support SB 436

Kenny Mallick

# MALLICK

MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS

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