



## PLUMBERS AND STEAMFITTERS

### UA LOCAL UNION 486

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Founded 1889

**Pasquale D. Petrovia**

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**Gerald W. Jackson**

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**C. Ryan Ambrose**

*Business Agent*

**Harry M. Schleicher Jr.**

*Business Agent*

**Stephen M. Nitsch**

*Business Agent*

**Todd E. Eckley**

*Recruiter*

### Finance Committee

**Chair:** Pam Beidle **Vice Chair:** Katherine Klausmeier

### Senate Bill 436: Workplace Fraud & Prevailing Wage – Violations- Penalties and Referrals

#### Position: Support

Chair Beidle and Committee members:

My name is Gerald Jackson. I am the Assistant Business Manager for the Plumbers & Steamfitters Local Union 486 and I am the Secretary Treasurer for the Maryland State & D.C. AFL-CIO. I'm writing this testimony in support of SB436.

In this climate of decriminalization, crimes against working families should not be considered as minor nuisances. We need to stop making excuses for businesses who deliberately cheat Maryland out of taxes, unemployment insurance, Workers' Compensation insurance and more importantly cheat the hardworking men and women of this great state out of their guaranteed wages and benefits.

In Maryland, if you cheat on your taxes it's a crime punishable by harsh penalties, but if you're a business deliberately that cheats the state and workers out of their money we ignore the problem?

We have evidence that unscrupulous contractors in the construction industry have taken advantage of workers, most of whom are people of color and/or immigrants. These workers depend upon the state legal system to protect their right to be paid correctly. It's estimated that there is close to \$60 million in **Wage Theft** in Maryland every year. **Misclassification** has become a business model in the State of Maryland. Maryland's reputation as a State that doesn't protect its' workers attracts rogue, unscrupulous businesses that can be thwarted by **SB436**. We should not and cannot be the State that's soft on **Labor Trafficking**.

In addition **SB436** requires that these cases be referred to the State 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,

For these reasons I'm asking for a favorable report for SB436.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gerald W. Jackson

Assistant BM Plumbers & Steamfitters 486

Secretary-Treasurer MD & DC AFL-CIO