



March 25, 2025

The Honorable CT Wilson, Chair  
The Honorable Brian Crosby, Vice Chair  
House Economic Matters Committee  
230 & 231 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Testimony of Ray Baker, Maryland Director, Baltimore DC Metro Building Trades Council on  
SB 431: Registered Apprenticeship Investments for a Stronger Economy (RAISE) Act  
Position: FAVORABLE**

Thank you Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee for the opportunity to offer testimony on SB 431. My name is Ray Baker. I am the Maryland Director of the Baltimore-DC Building Trades (BDCBT). The BDCBT's 28 affiliates represent more than 30,000 union construction workers across Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

The BDCBT supports SB 431. The BDCBT along with the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO met with staff from the Governor's office and the Maryland Department of Labor to amend the bill as originally introduced in the Senate to address our concerns. Those conversations were productive, and we support the version of the bill now before the House Economic Matters Committee.

The BDCBT urges a favorable report on SB 431.

Ray Baker  
Maryland Director, BDCBT  
[RBaker@BDCBT.org](mailto:RBaker@BDCBT.org)  
410.585.7862